DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 264 355 UD 024 631

AUTHOR	Hendricks, Leo E.
TITLE	An Analysis of Two Select Populations of Black Unmarried Adolescent Fathers. Volume I. Final Report.
INSTITUTION	Howard Univ., Washington, D.C. Mental Health Research and Development Center.
SPONS AGENCY	Children's Bureau (DHHS/OHS), Washington, DC.; National Inst. of Mental Health (DHHS), Rockville, MD. Center for Minority Group Mental Health Program.
PUB DATE	Apr 81
GRANT	1-R01-2555-07; 90CW637-01
NOTE	137p.; For related documents, see UD 024 632-633.
AVAILABLE FROM	Mental Health Research and Development Center, Institute for Urban Affairs and Research, Howard University, 2900 Van Ness Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20008 ($3.00).
PUB TYPE	Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Tests/Evaluation Instruments (160)
EDRS PRICE	MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Adolescents; *Blacks; *Early Parenthood; Family Relationship; *Fathers; Outreach Programs; Parent Counseling; Parenting Skills; Sexuality
IDENTIFIERS	Illinois (Chicago); Oklahoma (Tulsa)

ABSTRACT

This document is the final report for a study of Black, unmarried adolescent fathers designed to identify and describe quantitatively the difficulties they faced and their problem solving methods. The data were secured through a nonprobability sample of 20 Black unwed adolescent fathers in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and 27 in Chicago, Illinois. Data were collected in personal interviews with the use of an interview schedule which is included at the end of the report. The major problems faced by the study population were found to relate to financial responsibility, parenting skills, completing their education, and getting along with the unwed mother and her parents. The young fathers most often sought help from their families with these problems, especially from their mothers. Based on the findings in the report, it is recommended that more parenting agencies for adolescents provide services for young, unmarried fathers. Also this group needs assertive outreach programs which should extend to their male friends and to the families of the young parents. (CG)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED264355

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official NIE position or policy.

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Lawrence E. Gary
Howard University
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

AN

ANALYSIS OF TWO SELECT POPULATIONS OF BLACK UNMARRIED ADOLESCENT FATHERS

VOLUME I

FINAL REPORT

by

Leo E. Hendricks, Ph.D.

MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Institute for Urban Affairs and Research
Howard University

Washington, D.C.

Copyrighted April, 1981 by Howard University

ABSTRACT

An exploratory study, involving two select populations of Black unmarried adolescent fathers, was conducted to identify and describe quantitatively problems they encountered and ways in which they coped with these problems. Additional objectives of the study were to identify and describe: (1) the sexual knowledge, attitude, and practices of the subjects; (2) the attitudes of the young fathers toward fatherhood; and (3) the relationship between the unwed adolescent father and the mother of his first child. These particular objectives were chosen because little or no information has been previously documented on the Black unwed adolescent father.

The data for this study were secured through a nonprobability sample of 20 Black unwed adolescent fathers in Tulsa, Oklahoma and though a nonprobability sample of 27 unmarried adolescent fathers in Chicago, Illinois. Data were collected from the young fathers in face-to-face interviews through the use of an interview schedule. Both descriptive and chi-square analyses were used tc identify and describe trends in the data.

Major problems faced by the unmarried adolescent fathers in this study related to the following:

- Financial responsibilities
- Parenting skills
- Completing their education
- Getting along with the unwed mother and her parents.

Most often, the young fathers sought help with these problems from their families. The family member most frequently sought for help with a problem was the young father's mother. Based upon these and other findings included in this report, it was recommended that more parenting agencies, for adolescents, provide

services for young unmarried fathers. What is needed to get young fathers involved, it seems, is assertive outreach. In addition to reaching out to young fathers, an agency's outreach program must extend to their male friends and to the families of the young parents.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Acknowledgments i

List of Tables ii

Introduction and Statement of the Problem 1

Overall Objective 1

Specific Aims 1

Definition of Key Terms 1

Background of the Study 2

Review of Literature Pertaining to the Present Study 3

Methods of Procedure 9

- Sampling Procedure 10
- Study Population 10
- Data to Be Collected 12
- Summary and Analysis of the Data 13
- Description of Data Analysis Methods 14

Results 15

SECTION I: Measurement and Analysis of the Unwed Adolescent Fathers: Who He Is, What He Is Like, What Kinds of Problems He Has, And The Ways He Copes With Them 15

- 1.1 Who He Is: The Tulsa Sample 15
- 1.2 Who He Is: The Chicago Sample 18
- 1.3 Who He Is: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and Chicago Samples 21
- 1.4 What He Is Like: The Tulsa Sample 21

PAGE

1.5 What He Is Like: The Chicago Sample.......................... 24

1.6 What He Is Like: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and Chicago Samples.. 27

1.7 Problems He Has and The Ways He Copes With Them: The Tulsa Sample.. 27

1.8 Problems He Has and The Ways He Copes With Them: The Chicago Sample.. 31

1.9 Problems He Has And The Ways He Copes With Them: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and Chicago Sample......... 36

SECTION II: Measurement and Analysis of Sexual Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices of the Unwed Adolescent Fathers............................ 44

2.1 Sources of Sex Information: The Tulsa Sample................ 44

2.2 Sources of Sex Information: The Chicago Sample.............. 46

2.3 Sources of Information: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and Chicago Samples.. 46

2.4 Knowledge of Sex: The Tulsa Sample.......................... 46

2.5 Knowledge of Sex: The Chicago Sample........................ 49

2.6 Knowledge of Sex: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and Chicago Sample... 49

2.7 Attitudes Toward Sex Education: The Tulsa Sample............ 53

2.8 Attitudes Toward Sex Education: The Chicago Sample.......... 53

2.9 Attitudes Toward Sex Education: A Comparative Analysis of The Tulsa and Chicago Samples................................ 53

2.10 Attitudes Toward Sex, Contraception, and Pregnancy: The Tulsa Sample.. 54

2.11 Attitudes Toward Sex, Contraception, and Pregnancy: The Chicago Sample.. 56

2.12 Attitudes Toward Sex, Contraception, and Pregnancy: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and Chicago Sample......... 57

2.13 Sexual Experience: The Tulsa Sample......................... 59

PAGE

2.14 Sexual Experience: The Chicago Sample.................... 60

2.15 Sexual Experience: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and the Chicago Samples.................................. 63

2.16 Contraceptive Utilization: The Tulsa Sample............... 63

2.17 Contraceptive Utilization: The Chicago Sample............. 65

2.18 Contraceptive Utilization: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and Chicago Samples................................ 65

SECTION III: Measurement and Analysis of the Attitudes of the Unwed Adolescent Fathers Toward Fatherhood.............................. 69

3.1 Attitudes Toward Fatherhood: The Tulsa Sample............. 69

3.2 Attitudes Toward Fatherhood: The Chicago Sample........... 70

3.3 Attitudes Toward Fatherhood: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and Chicago Samples................................ 72

SECTION IV: Measurement and Analysis of The Relationship Between The Unwed Adolescent Fathers and The Mothers of Their First Child... 72

4.1 Relationship Between Adolescent Father and the Unwed Mother: The Tulsa Sample................................. 72

4.2 Relationship Between Adolescent Father and the Unwed Mother: The Chicago Sample............................... 74

4.3 Relationship Between Adolescent Father and the Unwed Mother: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and Chicago Samples.. 75

Discussion and Conclusions....................................... 77

Bibliography... 88

Appendix A - Consent Form and Interview Schedules................ 90

Acknowledgments

Many individuals have given much to help make this research possible. Among them I would like to acknowledge: Lawrence E. Gary, Director of the Mental Health Research and Development Center and Principal Investigator for the grant that supported this research, for his practical counsel, for his intellectual stimulus, and for his constant support; Cleopatra S. Howard both for her assistance of overseeing the data collection for the Chicago study and for her assistance in preparing the interview schedules used in both the Tulsa and Chicago study; Lula Beatty and Joe Smedley for their assistance during early preparation for this study; Sterlon Hawkins and Michael McCoy for their help in interviewing the subjects in Chicago; Catherine Gaillard-Ehlinger for her bibliographic assistance; and Ingrid Gabriel for typing this report.

To Lois Gatchell, Director of the Margaret Hudson Program, Marty Bogan, and Jim Nutler, Director of the Arts of Living Institute, I owe thanks for too many things to do justice here. They paved the way for the collection of the necessary data, and generously allowed access to their staff. I am especially grateful for the help of Connie Smith, B.C. Pickett, Charlotte Lindley, April Sterling and Bill Johnson in identifying and locating the subjects for this investigation. Finally, to the forty-seven unmarried adolescent fathers who participated in the study, I owe a special thanks.

The research described in this report was made possible in part through award 1 R01-2555-07 from the Center for Minority Group Mental Health Programs of NIMH and award 90CW637-01 from the Children's Bureau, ACYF. Reports of the Mental Health Research and Development Center (MHRDC) do not necessarily reflect the opinion or policies of the sponsors of MHRDC research.

List of Tables

TABLE PAGE

1.1 Select Study Characteristics of The Twenty Unwed Adolescent Fathers of Tulsa With Select Descriptive Statistics.............. 16

1.2 Percent Distribution of Select Socio-Demographic Traits of The Twenty Unwed Adolescent Fathers of Tulsa.................. 17

1.3 Select Study Characteristics of the Twenty-Seven Unwed Adolescent Fathers of Chicago With Select Descriptive Statistics.. 19

1.4 Percent Distribution of Select Socio-Demographic Traits of The Twenty-Seven Unwed Adolescent Fathers of Chicago.......... 20

1.5 Select Study Characteristics of the Forty-Seven Unmarried Adolescent Fathers With Select Descriptive Statistics by City of Residence... 22

1.6 Percent Distribution of Select Socio-Demographic Traits of The Forty-Seven Adolescent Fathers By City of Residence.. 23

1.7 Measurement of Internal and External Locus of Control of The Twenty Unwed Adolescent Fathers of Tulsa.................. 25

1.8 Measurement of Internal and External Locus of Control of The Twenty-Seven Unwed Adolescent Fathers of Chicago.......... 26

1.9 The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Question: "In Your Opinion, And From What You Have Seen Yourself, What Are Some of The Problems You Have Faced As A Young Father?"... 29

1.10 The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Question: "When You Ask Someone for Help With A Personal Problem, What types of Problems Do You Discuss With Them?"................ 30

1.11 The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Question: "Whom Would You Go To First With A Problem?"..................... 32

1.12 The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Question: "If You Had A Personal Problem, Whom Or Where Would You Go To For Advice or Help?"... 32

1.13 The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Question: "In Your Opinion And From What You Have Seen Yourself, What Are Some of The Problems You Have Faced As A Young Father?"...... 33

TABLE List of Tables (Continued) PAGE

1.14 The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Question: "When You Ask Someone For Help With A Personal Problem, What Types of Problems Do You Discuss With Them?"............... 34

1.15 The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Question: "Who Would You Go To First With A Problem?"..................... 35

1.16 The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Question: "If You Had A Personal Problem, Whom Or Where Would You Go To For Advice or Help?".. 35

1.17 Percent Distribution of the Young Fathers According To the Reason For Their Problems By City of Residence.................. 37

1.18 Percent Distribution of the Categories of Problems The Young Fathers Were Likely To Discuss With Someone When They Asked Them For Help by City of Residence....................... 39

1.19 Percent Distribution of Subjects According To Their Response To The Question: "Who Would You Go To First With A Problem?", by City of Residence... 41

1.20 Percent Distribution of Subjects According To Their Response To The Question: "If You Had A Personal Problem, Who or Where Would You Go To For Advice or Help?", By City of Residence.. 42

2.1 Percent Distribution of The Tulsa Subjects According To Main Source of Information on Sex................................ 45

2.2 Percent Distribution of The Chicago Subjects According To Main Sources of Information on Sex............................. 47

2.3 Percent Distribution of Subjects According To Main Sources of Information on Sex by City of Residence.............. 48

2.4 Percent Distribution of Correct Responses To Statements Concerning Sexual Knowledge of The Tulsa Fathers................ 50

2.5 Percent Distribution of Correct Responses To Statements Concerning Sexual Knowledge of The Chicago Fathers............. 51

2.6 Percent Distribution of Correct Responses To Statements Concerning Sexual Knowledge by City of Residence................ 52

2.7 Percent Distribution of The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers Responding True or False To Statements Exploring Attitudes Toward Sex, Contraception, and Pregnancy By Statement.......... 55

List of Tables (Continued)

TABLE PAGE

2.8 Percent Distribution of The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers Responding True or False To Statements Exploring Attitudes Toward Sex, Contraception, and Pregnancy By Statement........... 58

2.9 Percent Distribution of The Tulsa Respondents According To Age At First Sexual Intercourse With A Girl..................... 61

2.10 Percent Distribution of The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers According To Age At Birth of Their First Child.................. 61

2.11 Percent Distribution of The Chicago Respondents According To Age At First Sexual Intercourse With A Girl................. 62

2.12 Percent Distribution of The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers According To Age At Birth of Their First Child.......... 64

2.13 Percent Distribution of The Unwed Adolescent Fathers According To Age At Birth of Their First Child by City of Residence.. 64

2.14 Percent Distribution According To Whether Respondents of Tulsa Use Contraceptive When They Have Sexual Intercourse... 64

2.15 Reasons Given By Respondents of Tulsa For Using Contraceptives.... 66

2.16 Reasons Given By The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers For Not Using Contraceptives... 66

2.17 Percent Distribution of Respondents of Tulsa By Form of Contraceptive Used... 66

2.18 Percent Distribution According To Whether Respondents of Chicago Use Contraceptives When They Have Sexual Intercourse............ 67

2.19 Reasons Given By The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers For Not Using Contraceptives...................................... 67

2.20 Percent Distribution of Respondents of Chicago By Form of Contraceptive Used... 68

3.1 The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Perception of Readiness For Parenthood Before and After Birth of Child.................. 71

3.2 The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Perception of Readiness For Parenthood Before and After Birth of Child........ 71

TABLE List of Tables (Continued) PAGE

4.1 The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Perception of The Relationship Between Them And The Mothers of Their First Child Before and After The Mothers Became Pregnant.............................. 73

4.2 The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Perception of How They Believed The Mothers of Their First Child Regarded Their Relationship Before and After The Mothers Became Pregnant........ 73

4.3 The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Perception of The Relationship Between Them and The Mothers of Their First Child Before and After The Mothers Became Pregnant............... 76

4.4 The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Perception of How They Believed The Mothers of Their First Child Regarded Their Relationship Before and After The Mothers Became Pregnant........ 76

Introduction and Statement of the Problem

There is a dearth of information on unwed adolescent male partners of teen and pre-teen young women who become pregnant, and even less information on the problems they face and their methods for handling them. Furthermore, much of the information that has been documented on unmarried adolescent fathers has concerned white adolescents (e.g., Vincent, 1960; Pannor, 1971; Robbins and Lynn, 1973). This is surprising since a disproportionate number of teenage pregnancies involve young Black women (Ventura, 1977; Zelnik, et al., 1979). Therefore, it seemed appropriate to conduct a nonexperimental study to identify and describe problems encountered by two populations of Black unmarried adolescent fathers and ways they cope with them.

Overall Objective

The overall objective of this research is to obtain information that will help to prevent or reduce initial and repeated teenage pregnancies.

Specific Aims

The specific aims of this study are to identify and describe quantitatively:

1. problems faced by Black unwed adolescent fathers;
2. ways in which Black unwed adolescent fathers cope with their problems; and
3. sexual knowledge, attitudes, and practices of Black unwed adolescent fathers.

Definitions of Key Terms

The following are definitions of the key terms relevant to this investigation:

1. Adolescent means a person whose age is between the onset of puberty and 21 years old.

2. Adolescent father means a father or a father-to-be under the age of 21 years.

Background of the Study

In particular, the interest for conducting this study arose from the need to document information on the sexual development, attitudes, and behaviors of Black adolescent males (Chilman, 1975). More broadly, stimulation for this research developed from the knowledge that few studies have been carried out on unmarried fathers. This point is highlighted by the following observations:

> "Unmarried fathers are, so to say, half the biological cause of illegitimacy, yet the ratio of studies to them of studies of unwed mothers is approximately one to 25."
> Source: Vincent (1960), p. 40.
>
> "Face-to-face research with the unwed father . . . .is practically nonexistent."
> Source: Pannor (1971), p. 466
>
> "Unwed fathers have not received the thorough attention social scientists have given unwed mothers. . . ."
> Source: Robbins and Lynn (1973), p. 334
>
> "The adolescent male has, for the most part; been ignored . . . . Few data are available on his sexual and contraceptive knowledge, attitudes, and practices."
> Source: Finkel and Finkel (1975), p. 256
>
> "Unwed fathers are shadowy figures in sociological literature."
> Source: Pfuhl (1978), p. 113.

Another important reason for conducting the present research is that it has long been recognized that agencies serving unwed mothers have not given enough attention to unmarried fathers (e.g., Young, 1954; Bernstein, 1971; Pannor and Evans, 1975). Scales (1977) has pointed out that agencies and institutions serving family planning needs, systematically devalue the male role and exclude male participation. Judging from earlier reports in the literature, however, the situation has been changing (Bernstein, 1971; Kreech, 1974).

Some questions about unmarried fathers to which answers are sought are: Do unwed fathers have special traits or needs that predispose them to unmarried parenthood? What is an appropriate role for an agency in relation to an unmarried father? How can an agency involve him in its planning for the mother and the child? Despite these important questions, only a handful of studies concerning the unmarried father have been conducted.

Review of Literature Pertaining to the Present Study

The studies reviewed here concern, either directly or indirectly, factors that pertain to unwed fatherhood. The research focus of the studies covered ranges from an examination of the age and educational characteristics of unmarried fathers to the investigation of the hypothesis that there is generation recidivism in illegitimacy between parents and sons and that unwed fathers differ from unwed non-fathers in certain attitudes. This literature review is not intended to be exhaustive; however, care was exercised to include different kinds of studies to illustrate the variety of research previously undertaken and to present a generous sample of results obtained.

Vincent (1960) was among the first to conduct a study on unwed fathers. In a cross-sectional investigation, he examined the lable of "sexual exploiter" as ascribed to the unwed father, and the characteristics of the unmarried father and mother pair--this study objective will be the concern here. Through a nonprobability sample, age and educational differences between 201 white father-mother pairs were examined and interpreted as approximating age and educational differences between white husband-wife pairs in the general population. Data on the study subjects were obtained from three sources in Alameda County, California: the Salvation Army Maternity Home, the Alameda County Hospital, and physicians' private practice. It was found that thirty-eight (38 percent) of the fathers (or 77) had completed 12 or more years of school. The notion that unmarried fathers were much older and much better educated than were the females they impregnated was not supported by the data. Furthermore, it was found that the majority of the unwed fathers were within three years of the age of the unwed mother they impregnated. Although the investigator controlled for race, these findings were based upon data that did not make a distinction between the adolescent and adult unwed father. More importantly, these findings were based upon data that were not obtained directly from the unmarried fathers.

Unlike Vincent (1960), Pannor (1971) carried out a cross-sectional study in which a non-random sample of 96 unwed fathers were interviewed face-to-face at Vista Del Mar Childcare Service Agency in Los Angeles, California. Subjects for the investigation raged in age from 15 to 52 years; twenty eight (28) percent (or 27) of the unwed fathers were 19 years old or less. Approximately ten (10) percent of the study population were Black.

A principal objective of the study conducted by Pannor (1971) was to determine the social and psychological profile of the unmarried father--who he is, what he is like, and what kinds of problems he has. Study instruments used to achieve this objective were: (1) the California Psychological inventory, which focuses on skills and attitudes necessary for social functioning; (2) attitudinal scales designed to measure personal disjunctions and the degree to which individuals regard typical behavior as deviant; and (3) reports of behavior and attitudes as supplied by casework and clientele. The salient conclusions reported by the author include the following:

1. A large proportion of the unwed fathers were within four years of the age of the unwed mother with whom they were involved.

2. Sixty-eight (68) percent of the unmarried fathers had at least high school education.

3. Within defined limits--schooling, work habits, and delinquency patterns--the unwed father functions adequately in a controlled society. The image of the unwed father is following a pattern of delinquency was not borne out in this study.

4. The unmarried father lacks the ability to engage in mature relationships with others, as indicated by his relationship with his unmarried partner.

5. The unmarried father has not established a strong masculine identity.

Even though these conclusions were based upon face-to-face interviews with unwed fathers, it should be kept in mind that investigator did not control for either race or whether or not the unmarried father was an adult or an adolescent.

More recently, Elster and Panzarine (1979) carried out a pilot study to investigate the emotional and health educational needs of unwed, expectant teenaged fathers in the Rochester Adolescent Maternity Project (RAMP). This investigation involved a convenience sample of 16 unwed expectant adolescent fathers who ranged in age from 15 to 19 years. The mean age of the participants was 17.4 years; the racial distribution was ten Black, five white, and one subject who was not identified. Most of the fathers came from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. The study subjects, who were offered $25.00 incentive for participation, were interviewed individually by either a male or female interviewer. The authors found that:

1. There was a need in RAMP for expanded counseling services to include the teenaged male partners.

2. Forty-three (43) percent of the teenagers had difficulty in coping with the pregnancy.

3. There was high interest among the expectant fathers to learn more regarding childbirth and children.

4. The teenagers' knowledge of reproductive physiology indicated they could benefit from education in this area.

Because the number of prospective fathers who participated was small and the subjects were not randomly selected, the authors implied that their results should be observed with caution.

On a different concern from the previous studies reviewed here, Pfuhl (1978) examined in a cross-sectional study several sociological factors influencing the labeling process as it applied to a group of 140 unwed fathers who had been selected via a newspaper ad. Factors investigated included: a lack of sense of moral trespass, visibility, and social distance. Among information collected from the respondents were biographical data, responses to several attitude scales, information on specific aspects of the relationship between the unwed father and mother and his perception of the impact of the situation on his life.

Slightly over ninety-two (92) percent of the subjects were white; twelve cases involved Mexican-American men; three cases involved Orientals; and one case involved a Black male. The median age of the subjects was between 20 and 24 years, with the mean age at the time of pregnancy being 22 years. With re-respect to education, eighty-nine (89) percent of the subjects had completed 12 or more years of school.

The author found that the respondents acknowledged their behavior as being rule-violating and the pregnancies as "uncommon events," and yet they lacked a sense of self as deviant and they avoided being formally identified as deviant. This finding may relate to the fact that almost half of the subjects (44.9 percent) reported no religious preference. The author noted, however, that this situation may be accounted for in terms of the double standard of morality, the contextual basis of morality, and other conditions affecting a sense of moral trespass, visibility and information control, and social distance. It should be pointed out that Pfuhl (1978), like Pannor (1971), did not control for either race or whether or not the unwed father was an adult or an adolescent.

With regard to the role of the umarried father, Sauber (1966), in a cross-sectional study, interviewed 262 unwed mothers on their contacts with, and relationship to, the putative fathers, as well as about some of the fathers' characteristics. The unwed mothers were chosen from a purposive sample of 12 hospitals in New York City, and were interviewed during their hospital confinement.

The author reported that the unmarried fathers were, on the average, somewhat older than were the unwed mothers; the median age for the fathers was 23.1 years and for the mothers, 19.8 years. The age of the putative father appeared to have been associated with continuance of contact with the unwed mothers. For example, a fourth of the men aged 30 years or older had not been seen by the mother since the pregnancy period, a situation that was true for only fourteen (14) percent of the men under 20 years. About two-thirds of the men aged 20-24 years and 25-29 years were still seeing the mother 18 months after the birth of the baby, compared with fifty-three (53) percent of the men under 20 years and forty-three (43) percent of those 30 years or older.

Overall, the white women studied had slightly shorter periods of association with the putative father prior to their hospital confinement than did the Black or Puerto Rican women. The longer the unwed mother had known the putative father before the child's birth, the more likely she was to remain in touch with him thereafter. Moreover, the author found that the father's own employment status was a key factor in his role as a source of financial support for the child; employment was usually associated with a contribution toward the child's support and unemployment with a lack of contributions. While Sauber (1966) did control for race in one instance, she failed to control for the adolescence of the unwed father. She pointed out, however, that a full understanding of unmarried fathers would require a systematic interview directly with them.

Pauker (1971) conducted a cross-sectional study--one of the few to employ a control group--in which he compared the personality test results from the MMPI of 94 ninth-grade males reported to have fathered children out-of-wedlock with the test results of 94 ninth-grade males who were not unwed fathers. The study subjects and controls were selected through a non-random sample. The control group was matched with the unwed fathers for age, socioeconomic status, and school attended. The author concluded that the unwed fathers were much more similar to their controls then they were different. With regard to these findings, there was no evidence that the author controlled for race; he did, however, control for the adolescence of the unwed fathers.

Another study using a comparision group of unwed non-fathers was carried out by Robbins and Lynn (1973). Their cross-sectional study was designed to test the following hypotheses:

1. There is a generation recidivism between parents and sons.
2. Unwed fathers and non-fathers in attitudes about (a) responsibilities to their children; (b) sexual behavior; (c) contraceptives; and (d) marriage.

Subjects of the investigation, 22 unwed fathers and 22 unwed non-fathers selected via a purposive sample, were wards of the California Youth Authority. Ages of the unwed fathers ranged from 16 to 21 years; thirteen were considered white, three Mexican-American and six Black. The control group was selected by matching the unwed fathers in ethnic identification and age. The ages of the 22 non-fathers ranged from 16 to 20 years; 14 were white, three were Mexican-American, and five were Black. The subjects were interviewed individually.

The authors reported that the results supported their hypothesis that there is a generation recidivism in illegitimacy, that is, more unwed fathers than non-fathers were illegitimate; more siblings of unwed fathers have illegimate children than do siblings of non-fathers. In addition, it was reported that, with one exception, the results also supported the investigators' second hypothesis that unwed fathers and non-fathers differ in certain attitudes. For example, more unwed fathers than non-fathers approved of their own children becoming unwed parents than non-fathers and of extra-marital sex, and disapproved of the use of contraceptives.

None of the seven studies reviewed above is entirely persuasive. Taken together, however, they are more revealing. For example, they provide strong evidence on how little is known about non-white unmarried fathers. Also, the theories on which these studies were based appear to have been developed with the white unwed father in mind. The extent to which these theories hold true for other ethnic groups is not known. At test using data from Black unwed fathers seems particularly appropriate, since relationships found among white unwed fathers may not apply to Blacks or other unmarried fathers of different ethnic persuasion. Obviously, it would have been more desirable if these varied outcomes and approaches had been used on the same as well as different, populations, or if different study designs had been used to investigate the same outcomes, or if more of the studies had controlled for adolescence. Clearly, it can be observed in the above review of the literature that the issue of the factors that contribute to adolescent unwed fatherhood has by no means been resolved, and that further study is warranted.

Methods of Procedure

A static group comparison research design was used cross-sectionally to achieve the state research aims. This design was selected because knowledge of unmarried adolescent fathers, particularly that pertaining to the various ethnic groups (e.g., Blacks), has not been well described previously. Until there is a systematic body of knowledge concerning unmarried adolescent fathers (especially) the problems they face and the ways in which they cope with them), and some of the more important variables that influence unwed adolescent fatherhood, it would seem to be premature to design an experimental study.

Sampling Procedure

To obtain information necessary to achieve the stated aims, data were secured through two nonprobability samples of Black unmarried adolescent fathers residing in Tulsa, Oklahoma (N=20) and in Chicago, Illinois (N=27). The reason for selecting a nonprobability sample is that it is cheaper and more convenient to employ than is a probability sample. It must be noted, however, that data obtained through a nonprobability sample are of limited use due to the difficulty of generalizing the data to a larger target population. Basically, a nonprobability sample is not a sample at all, but could be regarded as a select population from which no statistical generalization to a large population can be made.

Study Population

The study population was identified and selected with the help of the social service staff of the Margaret Hudson Program (MHP) in Tulsa and the social service staff of the Arts of Living Institute in Chicago. In addition, unwed teenage mothers who were registered with both of these agencies also assisted in the identification and selection of the young fathers for this investigation. Twenty fathers were identified and selected in Tulsa through the Margaret Hudson Program. This program is a comprehensive service project for school-aged parents that started in September, 1969, in Tulsa. The services provided by the MHP include:

1. alternative school at the appropriate grade levels;
2. nurse counseling and health education;
3. psychosocial counseling;
4. vocational guidances;
5. parenting education with a laboratory licensed for the care of 12 infants;
6. follow-up social work for approximately two years after delivery;
7. counseling for family members and young fathers; and
8. health education outreach of the youth of the community.

In Chicago, twenty-seven fathers were identified with the help of the socail service staff of the Arts of Living Institute. This Institute is a program of the Catholic bharities of Chicago in cooperation with the Chicago Board of Health and the Chicago Board of Education. These three agencies provide non-residential comprehensive health, educational, and social services for the pregnant adolescent, her family, the father and her baby. More specifically, the services provided by the Arts of Living Institute include:

1. alternative school at the appropriate grade level;
2. nurse counseling and health education;
3. psychosocial counseling;
4. vocational guidance;
5. parenting education;
6. follow-up social work;
7. counseling for young fathers.

Prior to the selection of the study population, the term "unmarried adolescent father" was defined as an unwed male who was a father or father-to-be and was under the age of 21 years. Proof of the fatherhood was determined with the help of the social service staff of both the Margaret Hudson Progarm and the Arts of Living Institute. No limitation was placed on the number of children the adolescent may have fathered, although the questionnaire used in the current study was designed with the first-time fathers in mind. In addition to the above eligibility requirements, the study subjects were required to be residents of either Tulsa, Oklahoma or Chicago, Illinois.

Each of the forty-seven respondents were paid for their participation in this study. Those subjects who participated in Tulsa were paid $10.00; and, those subjects who participated in Chicago were paid $5.00.

Data To Be Collected

Data were collected from the young fathers through the use of an interview schedule (see Appendix A). Age, family size, educational level, employment status, and church participation were among the social and demographic information collected from the study population. Closed-ended questions were used to obtain information from the unmarried adolescent fathers concerning their sexual knowledge, attitude, and practices, their attitude toward fatherhood and the unmarried mother, and how they handle their problems. Open-ended questions were utilized to enrich the understanding of the problems faced by the young fathers. Data were collected through a face-to-face, structured personal interview.

A critical point in the investigation was the initial approach to the unwed adolescent fathers. The fathers were contacted in one of three ways: (1) by written and personal contact of social service staff of the Margaret Hudson and the Arts of Living Institute; (2) by a telephone call from the principal investigator; or (3) by personal contact from the principal investigator. As the subjects were contacted and their voluntary consent to participate in the present study secured (see consent form in Appendix A), appointments for structured interviews were scheduled at their convenience. As indicated earlier, the approach to the unmarried adolescent fathers was always by personal interview during which they were read a standard set of questions. All interviewing was done by adult Black males.

Summary of Analysis of the Data

Prior to performing any analysis of the data collected from the unmarried adolescent fathers, the interview schedules completed by the interviewers were edited by principal investigator and the field supervisor assigned to the study. The purpose of the editing was to amend any recording errors and to delete data that were obviously erroneous. Toward this end each interview schedule was thoroughly reviewed by the editors (i.e., 100 percent on each item). When it was discovered that a respondent had left an item blank, the adolescent father in question was contacted for completion of the omitted item. If for some reason the respondent failed to complete the item, then it was declared missing data. No adjustments were made for the missing data items. Once the interview schedules were edited, they were turned over to a data analyanalysis assistant for coding.

One coder was assigned to code the Tulsa interview schedules while another coder was assigned to code the Chicago interview schedules. The assignment of different coders in this fashion was done to reduce or avoid variability among coders. It is recognized that this action may markedly increase coder biases. Therefore, to minimize the potential for these biases, the coding carried out by the two data analysis assistants was spot-checked by the principal investigator of this study. Once the interview schedules were edited and coded, the data from them were keypunched on to cards, verified, and tabulated through the use of the computer facilities at Howard University in Washington, D.C.

Description of Data Analysis Methods

Both descriptive and dichotomous analyses were used to achieve the study aims. The first data analysis task was to determine the distributional characteristics of each key variable identified for the present study. In addition, the data were summarized in tabular form. When appropriate, a significance test will be used to summarize the relationship depicted in the various tables in the result section of this report. No attempt was made to generalize the results of this investigation (based upon the various computed statistics) to other populations of Black unwed adolescent fathers because the study population was not selected randomly.

The investigator chose to use descriptive statistics in the study because these statistics are appropriate in non-experimental studies in which the researcher describes a sample without generalizing the findings beyond the sample. Clearly, then, an important limitation of descriptive statistics is that they are not designed for drawing inferences from a sample to a larger population. Since the intention here was not to generalize to a larger population, it seemed more promising to organize the collected data in a descriptive manner to make manifest possible relationships, proportions, trends, or tendencies, that is, to reveal the nature of the information that has been gathered on a samples of Black unwed adolescent fathers.

The reasons for using dichotomous analyses in the current investigation were to identify and describe trends in the data as accurately as possible, and to suggest hypotheses for future testing or research priorities. It is noted that dichotomous analyses have relative strengths and weaknesses. Among the more important advantages of dichotomous analyses is that they allow one to make elementary comparisons within narrow ranges of a confounder so as to reduce the confoundness. On the other hand, dichotomous categories without distinguishing gradations lack sensitivity.

Results

The results of this research are presented in four sections: Section I concentrates on the unmarried fathers of this study in terms of who they are, what they are like, what kinds of problems they have, and the ways they cope with them; Section II involves an examination of the study subjects' sexual knowledge, attitudes, and practices; in Section III, questions relating to the respondents' attitude toward fatherhood are examined, and in Section IV, the relationship of the unwed adolescent fathers and the mothers of their first child are discussed. The format of the presentation of the results, in each of the four sections, will be a separate analysis of the data obtained from the fathers in both Tulsa and Chicago. Following these separate analyses, a comparative analysis will be presented to denote differences and similarities between the two populations of unmarried adolescent fathers. It should be pointed out that, throughout the presentation that follows, all statistical procedures were used solely as tools to describe the various relationships being investigated as they apply to the subjects under study.

SECTION I

Measurement and Analysis of The Unwed Adolescent Fathers: Who He Is, What He Is Like, What Kinds of Problems He Has, And The Ways He Copes With Them

1.1 Who He Is: The Tulsa Sample

With regard to who he is, the unmarried adolescent fathers of Tulsa present an interesting mixture of socio-demographic characteristics (see Tables 1.1 and 1.2). For example, their mean age at the time of their first sexual intercourse with a girl was 12.8 years and they became fathers for the first time at age 17.8 years on the average. Further, these young fathers were likely to come

TABLE 1.1

Select Study Characteristics of The Twenty Unwed Adolescent Fathers of Tulsa With Select Descriptive Statistics

Characteristic	Descriptive Statistics		
	Median	Mean	S.D.[d]
Family Size[a]	5.0	5.0	3.7
Age of Unwed Father At First[b] Sexual Intercourse With a Girl	13.2	12.8	2.4
Age of Unwed Father At Birth[c] of His First Child	18.0	17.8	1.4

[a] Family size as used here refers to the number of children in the family of origin of the unwed adolescent father.

[b] Age at first intercourse with a girl ranged from eight (8) to 16 years.

[c] Age at birth of first child ranged from 15 to 20 years.

[d] Standard Deviation.

TABLE 1.2

Percent Distribution of Select Socio-Demographic Traits of The Twenty Unwed Adolescent Fathers of Tulsa

TRAITS	N	%
Years of School Completed		
≤ 12	5	25
≥ 12	15	75
Employment Statuse		
Employed	12	60
Not Employed	8	40
Presence of Father in Home		
Present	13	65
Not Present	7	35
Active Church Member		
Yes	8	40
No	12	60
Sisters Who Are Unwed Mothers		
Yes	8	40
No	12	60
Brothers Who Are Unwed Fathers		
Yes	7	35
No	13	65

from families with at least five (5) children--in fact, sixty (60) percent of the unwed adolescent fathers were members of families with five (5) or more children. Despite being from such large families, these adolescent fathers were likely to come from families where their father was present in the home (65 percent). Even so, there was a hint of a family trend toward unwed parenthood, forty (40) percent of these young fathers had sisters who were unwed mothers and thirty-five (35) percent fathers had brothers who were also unwed fathers. Twenty-five (25) percent of the subjects themselves were born out-of-wedlock. Also, a majority of these fathers (60) percent were not likely to be active church members. Most were employed (60) percent, and the majority of the unmarried adolescent fathers (75 percent) had completed 12 or more years of school.

1.2 Who He Is: The Chicago Sample

Similarly, with regard to who he is, the unmarried adolescent fathers of Chicago present an interesting mixture of socio-demographic characteristics as well (see Table 1.3 and 1.4). For example, their mean age at the time of their first sexual intercourse with a girl was 11.8 years and they became fathers for the first time at age 17.2 years on the average. Furthermore, these young fathers were likely to come from families with at least four (4) children - in fact, 59 percent of the unwed adolescent fathers were members of families with 5 or more children. Even so, these adolescent fathers were likely to come from families where their father was present in the home (56%). Also, there was a hint of family trend toward unwed parenthood as 44% of these young fathers had sisters who were unwed mothers and 30% of these young fathers had brothers who were unwed fathers. Twenty-two (22) percent, of the subjects themselves,

30

TABLE 1.3

Select Study Characteristics of the Twenty-Seven Unwed Adolescent Fathers of Chicago With Select Descriptive Statistics

Characteristics	Descriptive Statistics		
	Median	Mean	S.D.[d]
Family Size[a]	5.0	5.9	2.9
Age of Unwed Father At First[b] Intercourse with a Girl	12.6	11.8	3.8
Age of Unwed Father At Birth[c] of His First Child	17.2	17.2	1.6

[a] Family size as used here refers to the number of children in the family of origin of the unwed adolescent father.

[b] Age at first intercourse with a girl ranged from 3 to 17 years.

[c] Age at birth of first child ranged from 14 to 20 years.

[d] Standard Deviation.

TABLE 1.4

Percent Distribution of Select Socio-Demographic Traits of The Twenty-Seven Unwed Adolescent Fathers of Chicago

TRAITS	N	%
Years of School Completed		
< 12	14	52
≥ 12	13	48
Employment Status		
Employed	7	26
Not Employed	20	74
Presence of Father in Home		
Present	15	56
Not Present	12	44
Active Church Member		
Yes	11	41
No	16	59
Sisters Who Are Unwed Mothers		
Yes	12	44
No	15	56
Brothers Who Are Unwed Fathers		
Yes	8	30
No	19	70

were born out of wedlock; and five (5) subjects were in doubt as to whether they were born in or out of wedlock. In addition, a majority of these fathers (59%) were not likely to be active church members. Moreover, most were unemployed (74%) and the majority of the unmarried adolescent fathers had not completed 12 or more years of school.

1.3 Who He Is: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and Chicago Samples

When comparisons were made between the Tulsa and Chicago Samples, it will be observed from the data presented in Tables 1.5 and 1.6, that they were more similar than they were different on the socio-demographic variables chosen for this investigation. Nonetheless, important differences were found to exist between the fathers in the two cities. For example, fathers in Tulsa were more likely to be employed than were the fathers in Chicago ($X^2 = 5.54$, df = 1, P = .02). In constrast, young fathers in Chicago were more likely to come from families with an income of $10,000 or more than were the fathers from Tulsa ($X^2 = 13.74$, df = 2, P = .001). Moreover, the Tulsa fathers were more likely to have completed 12 or more years of school than were the Chicago fathers ($X^2 = 3.44$, df = 1, P = .06).

1.4 What He is Like: The Tulsa Sample

The findings pertaining to what the unwed adolescent fathers of Tulsa were like were mixed and contradictory. For example, most of the fathers (70 percent) reported that they were closer to their mothers when they were growing up and eighty (80) percent replied that their relations with their family were happy. Moreover, ninety (90) percent of the fathers indicated that they got a lot of fun out of life. Even more striking were the findings that suggested that these fathers felt that their destiny was controlled not by chance, fate,

TABLE 1.5

Select Study Characteristics of The Forty-Seven Unmarried Adolescent Fathers With Select Descriptive Statistics By City of Residence

	Median		Mean[a]		S.D.[b]	
	Tulsa	Chicago	Tulsa	Chicago	Tulsa	Chicago
Family Size	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.9	3.7	2.9
Age of Fathers at First sexual Intercourse with a Girl	13.2	12.6	12.8	11.8	2.4	3.8
Age of Fathers at the Birth of his First Child	18.0	17.2	17.8	17.2	1.4	1.6

[a] The difference between the Tulsa and Chicago means were not significant statistically.

[b] Standard deviation.

TABLE 1.6

Percent Distribution of Select Socio-Demographic Traits of the Forty-Seven Adolescent Fathers By City of Residence

	Tulsa		Chicago				
Trait	N	%	N	%	X^2	df	P-Value
Years of School Completed							
< 12	5	25	14	52	3.44	1	.06
≥ 12	15	75	13	48			
Employment Status							
Employed	12	60	7	26	5.44	1	.02
Not Employed	8	40	20	74			
Presence of Father in Home							
Present	13	65	15	56	.43	1	NS[a]
Not Present	7	35	12	44			
Active Church Member							
Yes	8	40	11	41	2.62	1	NS
No	12	60	16	59			
Sisters Who Are Unwed Mothers							
Yes	8	40	12	44	.09	1	NS
No	12	60	15	56			
Brothers Who Are Unwed Fathers							
Yes	7	35	8	30	.15	1	NS
No	13	65	19	70			
Income[b]							
10,000	2	10	19	70	13.74[c]	2	.001
7,000-9,999	8	40	3	11			
7,000	10	50	5	19			

[a] Not significant statistically.

[b] Income was determined from the median income of the census tract where the unmarried adolescent father resided.

[c] Chi-square corrected for continuity.

or other people, but by themselves (see Table 1.7). Despite these findings, a majority of the young fathers sixty (60) percent stated that they felt useless at times. Additionally, eighty (80) percent indicated that, when they were growing up, they felt that they would have liked to move away from home. These negatives notwithstanding, most of these unmarried adolescent fathers either liked school somewhat (35 percent) or liked school very much (60 percent); and, eighty-five (85) percent said they got along with their teachers at school.

1.5 What He Is Like: The Chicago Sample

Not unlike Tulsa, the findings pertaining to what the unwed adolescent fathers of Chicago were like were also mixed and contradictory. For example, most of the fathers (74%) reported that they were closer to their mothers then they were growing up and (81%) replied that their relations with their family were happy. Moreover, ninety-two (92%) percent of the fathers indicated that they got a lot of fun out of life. Even more striking were the findings that suggested that these fathers felt that their destiny was controlled not by chance, fate, or othe people, but by themselves (see Table 1.8). Despite these findings, a majority of the young fathers (52%) stated that they felt useless at times. Additionally, a sizeable majority (74%) indicated that, when they were growing up, they felt that they would have liked to move away from home. These negatives notwithstanding, most of these unmarried adolescent fathers either liked school somewhat (41%) or liked school very much (30%); and, seventy (70%) percent said they got along with their teachers at school.

TABLE 1.7

Measurement of Internal and External Locus of Control of The Twenty Unwed Adolescent Fathers in Tulsa

INTERNAL LOCUS OF CONTROL			EXTERNAL LOCUS OF CONTROL		
Do you feel that what happens to you is your own doing?			Do you feel that you can do very little to change your life?		
	N	%		N	%
Yes	16	80	Yes	5	25
No	4	20	No	15	75
When you make plans, do you feel that you're almost certain that you can make them work?			Do you feel that it is mostly luck if one succeeds or gets ahead?		
	N	%		N	%
Yes	17	85	Yes	2	10
No	3	15	No	18	90

TABLE 1.8

Measurement of Internal and External Locus of Control of The Twenty-Seven Unwed Adolescent Fathers of Chicago

INTERNAL LOCUS OF CONTROL			EXTERNAL LOCUS OF CONTROL		
Do you feel that what happens to you is your own doing?			Do you feel that you can do very little to change your life?		
	N	%		N	%
Yes	25	93	Yes	13	48
No	2	7	No	14	52
When you make plans, do you feel that you're almost certain that you can make them work?			Do you feel that it is mostly luck if one succeeds or gets ahead?		
	N	%		N	%
Yes	23	85	Yes	6	22
No	4	15	No	20	74
			No Response	1	4

1.6 What He Is Like: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and Chicago Samples

A comparative analysis of what the young fathers were like, in both Tulsa and Chicago, again, reveal more similarities between the fathers than differences. For example, these were no significant differences between the fathers in terms of:

1. their relationship to their mother
2. their relationship to their family
3. whether they got fun out of their lives
4. whether they felt useless at times
5. whether they wanted to run away from home

In fact, the only major difference found between the fathers, with respect to what they were like concerned school. On the one hand, the Tulsa fathers were more favorable toward school than were the fathers from Chicago ($X^2 = 20.41$, df = 1, P = .001); and, on the other hand, the fathers from Tulsa were more likely to get along better with their teacher than were the Chicago fathers ($X^2 = 6.45$, df = 1, P = .01).

1.7 Problems He Has and The Ways He Copes With Them: The Tulsa Sample

Two open-ended questions were used to obtain information on the problems faced by the unwed adolescent fathers of Tulsa. These were as follows:

> Question I: "In your opinion, and from what you have seen yourself, what are some of the problems you have faced as a young father?"
>
> Question II: "When you ask someone for help with a personal problem, what types of problems do you discuss with them?"

With regard to each of these questions, the respondents were probed for several problems. A representative range of the replies by the young fathers to Questions I and II is summarized in Tables 4 and 5, because many of the subjects offered several answers to the questions.

It will be observed in Tables 1.9 and 1.10 that the unwed adolescent fathers present an assortment of problems, including the following:

- o Financial responsibilities
- o Parenting Skills
- o Completing their education
- o Getting along with the unwed mother and her parents
- o Keeping a good job
- o Facing life in general
- o His Family
- o Marriage
- o Transportation
- o Religion
- o Drugs

While no dominant theme could be ascertained from the problems presented by the young fathers, there were, however, strong suggestions why unwed adolescent fatherhood can be a stressful experience.

To address the issue of how the unmarried adolescent fathers handled their problems, as indicated above, they were asked the following two questions:

- o "Who would you go to first with a problem?"
- o "If you had a personal problem, whom or where would you go to for advice or help?"

TABLE 1.9

The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Questions: In Your Opinion, And From What You Have Seen Yourself, What Are Some of The Problems You Have Faced As A Young Father?

A Representive Range of Problems Faced By The Young Fathers

"Providing financial support to the mother of my two children."

"Sometimes misunderstanding with mother (i.e., the unwed mother) about various things.

"Disadvantage to be young and try to raise kid in proper way."

"She wants to marry before I finish school and I want to wait until I get myself straight."

"Problems with her (i.e., the unwed mother) father."

"Money problems."

"Not being able to buy clothes for the baby."

"Finding a good nursery to take care of child."

"Marriage."

"Girl's mother resented him."

"Not being able to support the baby myself."

"Mother of girl (i.e., the unwed mother) get in the way."

"Can't see the baby when I want to."

"Payment of bills."

"Not being able to go to school."

"None."[a]

---

[a] Four (4) fathers gave this response.

TABLE 1.10

The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Question: When You Ask Someone For Help With A Personal Problem, What Types of Problems Do You Discuss With Them

A Representative Range of the Types of Problems Discussed

"How I'm Going to handle problems with coming baby."

"Girls."

"Religion."

"Fights with others."

"Problems with wrestling at school."

"Money problems."

"Transportation."

"Finding time to study."

"Family problems."

"Facing Life in general."

"Bad disease (V.D.)."

"My future."

"Personal problems."

"Problems with girl's (i.e., the unwed mother's family."

"Treatment on the job."

"None."[a]

---

[a] Two (2) fathers gave this response.

The unmarried fathers' replies to these questions are illustrated in Tables 1.11 and 1.12. From Table 11, it will be observed that these young fathers most often sought help from their families. The family member most often asked for help was the unwed adolescent fathers' mother.

1.8 Problems He Has And The Ways He Copes With Them: The Chicago Sample

It will be observed in Tables 1.13 and 1.14 that the unwed adolescent fathers of Chicago present an assortment of problems as well. Included among their concerns were the following:

- Financial responsibilities
- Parenting skills
- School
- Employment
- His life and his future
- Transporation
- Getting along with the unwed mother

Like the father of Tulsa, the concerns of the Chicago fathers would suggest strongly that unwed adolescent fatherhood can be a stressful experience.

To address the issue of how the unmarried adolescent fathers of Chicago handled their problems as indicated Tables 1.13 and 1.14, they were asked the following two questions:

- "Who would you go to first with a problem?
- "If you had a personal problem, who or where would you go to for advice or help."

The unmarried fathers replies to these questions are illustrated in Tables 1.15 and 1.16. From Table 1.15, it will be observed that these young fathers most often sought help from their families. The family member most often asked for help was the unwed adolescent fathers' mother.

TABLE 1.11

The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Question: "Whom Would You Go To First With A Problem?"

Subjects' Response To Question	N	%
Family	19	95
Friends	1	5
Outsiders (i.e., agencies)	-0-	-0-

TABLE 1.12

The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response to The Questions: "If You Had A Personal Problem, Whom Or Where Would You Go To For Advice Or Help?"

Subjects' Response To Questions	N	%
Mother	9	45
Father	3	15
Mother or Father	2	10
Brother	1	5
Sister	-0-	-0-
Friend	2	10
Minister	1	5
Self	2	10
Agency	-0-	-0-

TABLE 1.13

The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Question: "In Your Opinion And From What You Have Seen Yourself, What Are Some of The Problems You Have Faced As A Young Father?"

A Representative Range of Problems Faced By The Young Fathers

"No job."

"Arguments and fights with girlfriend."

"Coping with the baby's medical problems."

"Money."

"Keeping a good relationship with the mother." (of his child)."

"Taking care of baby and her" (the unwed mother)"

"Unemployment."

"No problems."[a]

". . .Couldn't support the kid."

"Coping with being a father."

"I can't do as much when I didn't have a child."

"Having a permanent job."

"Transportation."

"How to take care of the baby."

"A problem with staying in school and taking care of the baby."

". . .Sometimes I feel that I am unprepared to take care of child."

---

[a] Six (6) fathers gave this response.

TABLE 1.14

The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Father's Response To The Questions: "When You Ask Someone For Help With A Personal Problem, What Types of Problems Do You Discuss With Them?"

A Representative Range of The Types of Problems Discussed

"School."

"Job."

"Family problems."

"Where to find a better job."

"Fights."

"How to take care of the baby."

"Better understanding of life."

"Problems dealing with my future."

"No problems."[a]

"If I did something wrong."

"Work problems."

"Money."

"When I'm not getting along with my girlfriend."

"Health problems."

"Problems about a job or just something to do."

"Transportation."

"Mostly social life."

---

[a] Three (3) fathers gave this response.

TABLE 1.15

The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Question: "Who Would You Go To First With a Problem?"

Subjects' Response To Question	N	%
Family	23	85
Friends	4	15
Outsiders (i.e., agencies)	-0-	-0-

TABLE 1.16

The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Response To The Question: "If You Had A Personal Problem, Whom Or Where Would You Go To For Advice or Help?

Subjects' Response To Question	N	%
Mother	13	48
Father	-0-	-0-
Mother or Father	5	18
Brother	-0-	-0-
Sister	1	4
Friend	3	11
Minister	-0-	-0-
Self	4	15
Agency	1	4

1.9 Problems He Has And The Ways He Copes With Them: A Comparative Analysis of The Tulsa and Chicago Samples

Content analysis was employed to facilitate a comparative examination of the problems faced by the young fathers of Tulsa and Chicago. This is a research technique used to describe and analyze objectively, systematically, and quantitatively the content of written or spoken communication (Theodorson and Theodorson, 1969). More specifically, this research technique was employed here to answer the questions of what was the specific content of the problems faced by these fathers, and from where or whom do they seem to arise? Answers to this question permitted the classification of the young fathers according to whether some personal failing, another person, or an interpersonal relationship, or some other external factor was seen as the reason for their difficulty.

As noted earlier, two open-ended questions were used to obtain information on the problems faced by these young fathers. It will be recalled that the first question asked of the fathers was:

> "In your opinion, and from what you have seen yourself, what are some of the problems you have faced as a young father?"

A chi-square analysis, of the data depicted in Table 1.17, revealed no significant differences between the Tulsa and Chicago fathers in the specific content of the problems they had encountered as unmarried adolescent fathers.

When viewed collectively, it was found that the locus of the problems faced by these fathers centered around a relationship or another person. For example, over half the subjects (51%) indicated their problems involved an interpersonal relationship or another person. The nature of these problems ranged from problems with their family of origin to child restricts freedom, the responsibility of providing for their child, not being able to see their child as much as they would like to, their girlfriend or the unwed family, and not wanting the girl to have the baby. With regard to other external factors, a fourth of the fathers

TABLE 1.17

Percent Distribution of the Young Fathers According To The Reasons For Their Problem by City of Residence

CITY OF RESIDENCE	REASON FOR PROBLEM									
	Personal Failing		Interpersonal Relationship or Another Person		Other External Factor		None		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
TULSA	-0-	-0-	11	55	6	30	3	15	20	43
CHICAGO	2	7.5	13	48.1	6	22.2	6	22.2	27	57
TOTAL	2	4	24	51	12	26	9	19	47	100

indicated their problems were related either to a lack of employment, a lack of money, or not being able to finish school. Less than five percent of the fathers perceived their problems as being the result of some personal failing. For those who did, they indicated having a problem coping with being a father and in setting a good example in the child's presence. Surprisingly, nineteen percent of the young fathers indicated they had not faced any problems as an unwed adolescent father.

To gain a keener insight on what kinds of problems the young fathers were most likely to seek help with, they were asked:

> "When you ask someone for help with a personal problem, what types of problems do you discuss with them?"

A chi square analysis ofthe data shown in Table 1.18, again, revealed no significant differences in the specific content of the problems the young fathers of Tulsa and Chicago were likely to discuss with someone when they ask them for help.

Unlike the preceding analysis, when taken together, the modal response of the fathers (43%) revealed that the types of problems they discussed with others concerned external causes other than another person per se. These problems were likely to relate to problems with school, a lack of employment and a lack of money. Although only 23 percent of the young fathers discussed problems concerning a relationship or another person, it was more revealing to note that, in addition to indicating problems with their girlfriend and their child, the young fathers indicated having problems fostering a viable social life. With respect to "self", more of the subjects than had been anticipated (23%) discussed problems they thought had resulted from some personal failing. These problems were likely to concern the young father's health and

TABLE 1.18

Percent Distribution of the Categories of Problems The Young Fathers Were Likely To Discuss with Someone When They Asked Them For Help By City of Residence

CITY OF RESIDENCE	TYPES OF PROBLEMS DISCUSSED WITH OTHERS									
	Personal Failing		Interpersonal Relationship or Another Person		Other External Factor		None		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
TULSA	5	25	5	25	8	40	2	10	20	43
CHICAGO	6	22.2	6	22.2	12	44.4	3	11.2	27	57
TOTAL	11	23	11	23	20	43 43	5	11	47	100

his keeping out of "trouble" as oppose to his coping with being a father or setting a "good example" for his child. Only five fathers indicated they did not discuss their problems with anyone.

Virtually no differences were found between the fathers of Tulsa and Chicago in the manner that they handled the various problems they were confronted with as young fathers. For example, a comparison of these fathers responses in Table 1.19 to the question: "Who would you go to first with a problem?" revealed that a majority of the fathers, regardless of city of residence, were most likely to go to their family first for help with a problem. Similarly, a comparison of the fathers responses to question: "If you had a personal problem, who or where would you go to for advice or help?" revealed that a majority of the young fathers, in each of the cities, would go to their mother or father for advice or help (See Table 1.20). As noted before, the person most likely to be asked to provide assistance was the young father's mother.

The young fathers of Tulsa and Chicago differed, however, on the problems they thought best to take to their mother or to another family member. When the young fathers of Chicago did take a problem to a family member, it was most likely to involve some personal failing. The adolescent fathers of Tulsa, however, were just as likely to take a problem about some personal failing to a family member as they were likely to take a problem involving some external factor.

Unlike the young fathers' family, friends were used infrequently as a source of help. In fact, no more than 15% of the fathers, in either of the cities under study, indicated they would go to a friend first with a problem. It is possible that the young fathers' infrequent use of friends as source of help may have been due in part to their being contemporaries. As an example,

TABLE 1.19

Percent Distribution of Subjects According To Their Response To The Questions: "Who Would You Go To First With A Problem?", By City of Residence

CITY OF RESIDENCE	CHOICES FOR SOURCE OF HELP WITH PROBLEM							
	Family		Friend		Social Service Agency		Total	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
TULSA	19	95	1	5	-0-	-0-	20	43
CHICAGO	23	85	4	15	-0-	-0-	27	57
TOTAL	42	89	5	11	-0-	-0-	47	100

TABLE 1.20

Percent Distribution of Subjects According To Their Response To The Question: "If You Had A Personal Problem, Who or Where Would You Go To For Advice Or Help?", By City of Residence

RESPONSE	TULSA		CHICAGO	
	N	%	N	%
Mother	9	45	13	48
Father	3	15	-0-	-0-
Mother or Father	2	10	5	18
Brother	1	5	-0-	-0-
Sister	-0-	-0-	1	4
Friend	2	10	3	11
Minister	1	5	-0-	-0-
Self	2	10	4	15
Agency	-0-	-0-	1	4

the adolescent fathers and their friends could be experiencing the same or similar kinds of problems. Therefore, it would be expected that friends of the adolescent fathers could not impart expertise and perhaps could harm the young fathers by giving them misleading advice.

Whatever the reasons for not using friends more frequently as a source of help with problems, the young fathers were even less inclined to use a clergyman or a school teacher as a source of help for resolving their problems. For example, only one young father from the entire study population (i.e., from the Tulsa sample) indicated he would go to a minister for advice or help with a personal problem. This was not an unexpected finding as it was also found, in each of the cities, that a majority of the fathers (59% to 60%) were not active church members.

With regard to school teachers, none of the fathers indicated they would go to them for advice or help with any of their problems. This was surprising since most of these fathers (70% to 85%) in both cities, indicated that their teachers liked them. Part of the reason why school teachers were not used as sources of help with a problem may have been because they were not equipped to deal with problems associated with unwed parenthood, especially from the perspective of the unmarried adolescent fathers.

On the surface, it would seem that a social service agency concerned with teenage parenting would be equipped to deal with problems associated with unmarried parenthood. None of the young fathers either in Tulsa or Chicago, however, indicated they would seek out such an agency first for help with their problems. When these fathers did seek help from any social service agency, it was likely to be in search of job opportunities. Perhaps one explanation why social service agencies were not valued as a source of social support was that adequate counseling was not available to these young fathers for making appropriate decisions about such matters as: abortion, adoption, child support, and continuation of schooling. Scales (1977) provides support for this explanation by pointing out that agencies and institutions serving family planning needs, tend systematically to devalue the male role and exclude male participation.

SECTION II

Measurement and Analysis of Sexual Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of The Unwed Adolescent Fathers

In Section II, the sexual and contraceptive knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of the young fathers are examined. Topics covered in this section of the analysis include:

- Sources of Sex Information
- Knowledge of Sex
- Attitudes Toward Sex Education
- Attitudes Toward Sex, Contraception, and Pregnancy
- Sexual Experience
- Contraceptive Utilization

An analyis of each of these topics, in regard to the Tulsa and Chicago samples, follows in subsequent paragraphs.

2.1 Sources of Sex Information: The Tulsa Sample

The unmarried adolescent fathers were asked "When you first learned about sex, what was your main source of information?" The main source of information about sex are listed in Table 2.1. Friends were the most frequent source, followed by books, the subject's father, and films. Only ten (10) percent of the study population learned about sex from a parent -- the father.

TABLE 2.1

Percent Distribution of The Tulsa Subjects According To Main Sources of Information On Sex

SOURCE	N	%
Friends	14	70
Books	2	10
Mother	-0-	-0-
Doctor	-0-	-0-
Pamphlets	-0-	-0-
Teacher	-0-	-0-
Father	2	10
Films	2	10
Other	-0-	-0-

2.2 Sources of Sex Information: The Chicago Sample

A percent distribution of the Chicago subjects, according to their main source of information when they first learned about sex, is shown in Table 2.2. For these fathers, friends were the most frequent source noted, followed by teachers, the subject's father, books, and other sources not identified. Only 11 percent of the Chicago fathers indicated they learned about sex from a parent -- the father.

2.3 Sources of Sex Information: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and Chicago Samples

It will be noted in Table 2.3 that few differences exist between the Tulsa and Chicago fathers when they are compared according to their main source of information when they first learned about sex. Although the fathers from both these cities were likely to have first learned about sex through a friend, the Tulsa fathers were more likely to have done so than the Chicago fathers. In fact, over half the Chicago fathers (51.9%) were likely to have first learned about sex from sources other then a friend. The most notable finding, however, is how infrequent the fathers of Tulsa and Chicago learned about sex from their parents.

2.4 Knowledge of Sex: The Tulsa Sample

Four statements were used to obtain information pertaining to the sexual knowledge of the unwed adolescent fathers. As shown in Table 2.4, a large majority of the respondents (95 percent) knew that venereal disease (V.D.) in the mother could cause her baby to be stillborn or blind; however, fewer subjects (40 percent) knew that V.D. is both gonorrhea and syphilis. With regard to the

TABLE 2.2

Percent Distribution of The Chicago Subjects According To Main Source of Information On Sex

SOURCE	N	%
Friends	13	48.1
Books	2	7.4
Mother	-0-	-0-
Doctor	1	3.7
Pamphlets	-0-	-0-
Teacher	6	22.2
Father	3	11.2
Films	-0-	-0-
Other	2	7.4

TABLE 2.3

Percent Distribution of Subjects According To Main Source of Information On Sex By City of Residence

	Tulsa		Chicago		
Source	N	%	N	N	%
Friends	14	70		13	48.1
Books	2	10		2	7.4
Mother	0	0		0	0
Doctor	0	0		1	3.7
Pamphlets	0	0		0	0
Teacher	0	0		6	22.2
Father	2	10		3	11.2
Films	2	10		0	0
Other	0	0		2	7.4

statement on masturbation, only forty-five (45) percent of the subjects thought that it was not abnormal for children and teenagers to masturbate. Perhaps the most salient finding relating to the sexual knowledge of the young fathers was that ninety-six (96) percent of them could not identify the time during the menstrual cycle when conception is most likely to occur.

2.5 Knowledge of Sex: The Chicago Sample

As with the Tulsa fathers, four statements were used to obtain information pertaining to the sexual knowledge of the young fathers of Chicago. As displayed in Table 2.5, a majority of the subjects (63%) knew that VD in the mother could cause her baby to be stillborn or blind; however, more respondents (70%) knew that VD is both gonorrhea and syphilis. With respect to the statement on masturbation, only twenty-two percent of the fathers thought that it was not abnormal for children and teenagers to masturbate. Also, a large majority of the Chicago fathers (70%) could not identify the time during the menstrual cycle when conception is most likely to occur.

2.6 Knowledge of Sex: A Comparative Analysis of the Tulsa and Chicago Samples

Significant differences were found between the fathers in their response to the four statements used to obtain information pertaining to their sexual knowledge ($X^2 = 6.19$, df = 3, P = .10) (see Table 2.6). In the first instance, the fathers of Tulsa were more likely to know that VD in the mother could cause her baby to be stillborn or blind than were the fathers of Chicago. The fathers of Chicago, on the other hand, were more likely to know that VD is both gonorrhea and syphilis. With regard to the statement on masturbation, Tulsa fathers were more likely to perceive masturbation as normal for children and teenagers than were the fathers of Chicago. While neither population of the young fathers exercised any great

TABLE 2.4

Percent Distribution of Correct Responses To Statements Concerning Sexual Knowledge of the Tulsa Fathers

STATEMENT	N	%
Do you believe that V.D. in the mother may cause her baby to be stillborn or blind? (Yes)[a]	19	95
What is V.D. in your opinion? (both gonorrhea and syphillis)	8	40
Do you feel that it is abnormal for children and teenagers to masturbate? (No)	9	45
A girl can most easily get pregnant around the time of ovulation? (True)	1	5

[a] Correct response to question.

69

TABLE 2.5

Percent Distribution of Correct Responses To Statements Concerning Sexual Knowledge of The Chicago Fathers

STATEMENT	N	%
Do you believe that VD in the mother may cause her baby to be stillborn or blind? (Yes)[a]	17	63
What is VD in your opinion? (both gonorrhea and syphillis)	19	70
Do you feel that it is abnormal for children and teenagers to masturbate? (No)	6	22
A girl can most easily get pregnant around the time of ovulation? (True)	8	30

---

[a] Correct response to question.

TABLE 2.6

Percent Distribution of Correct Responses To Statements Concerning Sexual Knowledge By City of Residence

Statement	Tulsa N	Tulsa %	Chicago N	Chicago %
Do you believe that VD in the mother may cause her baby to be stillborn or blind (Yes)[a]	19	95	17	63
What is VD in your opinion? (Both gonorrhea and Syphilis) (Yes)	8	40	19	70
Do you feel that it is abnormal for children and teenagers to masturbate? (Yes)	9	45	6	22
A girl can most easily get pregnant around time of ovulation (True)	1	5	8	30

χ^2, corrected for continuity = 6.19, df = 3, P = .10.

[a] Correct response to question.

proficiency in identifying the time during the menstrual cycle when conception is most likely to occur, the Chicago fathers were more likely to make this identification correctly than were the fathers of Tulsa. Even though there were important differences between the fathers in their sexual knowledge, when viewed collectively, the findings would suggest that both the Tulsa and the Chicago fathers have gaps in their sexual knowledge.

2.7 Attitudes Toward Sex Education: The Tulsa Sample

To assess the young fathers' attitude toward sex education, they were asked to respond either true or false to the statement: "Sex education is nothing out but a waste of time." Eighty-five (85) percent of the unwed adolescent fathers thought that sex education was not a waste of time. This finding is virtually the same as the finding reported by Vadies and Hale (1977) from a sample of 1,017 male adolescents who ranged in age from 15 to 19 years -- they reported that eight-four (84) percent of their sample felt that sex education was not a waste of time.

2.8 Attitudes Toward Sex Education: The Chicago Sample

The Chicago fathers' attitudes toward sex were assessed in the same manners as the Tulsa fathers in the preceding paragraph. Ninety-three (93) percent of these young fathers thought that sex education was not a waste of time. This is in accord with both the Tulsa finding reported above and the finding reported by Vadies and Hale (1977) in their study of adolescent males.

2.9 Attitudes Toward Sex Education: A Comparative Analysis of The Tulsa and Chicago Samples

There were no significant differences found between the Tulsa and the Chicago fathers attitudes toward sex education. Both groups of fathers indicated strongly that sex education was not a waste of time. Perhaps this finding would suggest that these fathers would be amendable to human sexuality or sex education programs aimed at reducing the incidence of repeat unmarried adolescent fatherhood.

2.10 Attitudes Toward Sex, Conception, and Pregnancy: The Tulsa Sample

Eight statements that were to be answered either true or false explored the attitudes of the Tulsa fathers toward sex, contraception, and pregnancy. As Table 2.7 shows, ninety (90) percent disagreed with the statement that "It's O.K. to tell a girl that you love her so that you can have sex with her." This finding is at variance with what Vadies and Hale (1977) found in their study when they used the same statement -- more than three fifths (61 percent) of their male adolescent subjects agreed with the statement. Thus, it would appear that, contrary to the finding reported by these authors, the majority of the fathers in this study do not believe in deceit to obtain sexual favors from a young woman.

It has been reported in the literature that young males find sex important because their masculinity (e.g., Nelson and Segrist, 1976). In order to get a reading from the respondents on this observation, they were asked to respond either true or false to the statement "Getting a girl pregnant proves that you are a man." Ninety-five (95) percent of the subjects disagreed. This would suggest strongly that sex is important to these young fathers for reasons other than to prove their masculinity.

Credence is given to this suggestion in as much as all the unwed adolescent fathers (100 percent) indicated that they would not want a girl to have an abortion if they were responsible for the pregnancy. Furthermore, ninety-five (95) percent stated that they would not want their sexual mate to have an abortion "because it is wrong."

TABLE 2.7

Percent Distribution of The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers Responding True or False To Statements Exploring Attitudes Toward Sex, Contraception, And Pregnancy By Statement

Statement	True		False	
	N	%	N	%
It's not right to use birth control	5	25	15	75
It's O.K. to tell a girl you love her so that you can have sex with her.	2	10	18	90
If a guy gets a girl pregnant, it's her fault, not his, because she should have protected herself.	2	10	18	90
Birth control is for girls only.	8	40	12	60
Getting a girl pregnant proves that you are a man.	1	5	19	95
A guy should use birth control whenever possible.	13	65	7	35
If I got a girl pregnant, I would want her to have an abortion.	0	0	20	100
If I got a girl pregnant, I would not want her to have an abortion because it's wrong.	19	95	1	5

With regard to their attitudes toward contraceptive responsibility, the Tulsa fathers seemed to be inclined to share contraceptive responsibility with the female. For example, ninety (90) percent of the young fathers disagreed that pregnancy is "her fault" when it occurs, because "she should have protected herself." Similarly, sixty (60) percent of the young fathers disagreed that "birth control is for girls only." Of more importance, perhaps, is that sixty-five (65) percent of the unwed fathers thought that "a guy should use birth control whenever possible." In fact, seventy-five (75) percent of the Tulsa fathers disagreed with the statement that "It's not right to use birth control."

2.11 Attitudes Toward Sex, Contraception, and Pregnancy: The Chicago Sample

The same eight statements were asked of the Chicago fathers that were asked of the Tulsa fathers with regard to their attitudes toward sex, contraception, and pregnancy. As noted in Table 2.8, seventy-eight (78) percent of the Chicago fathers disagreed with the statement that "It's o.k. to tell a girl that you love her so that you can have sex with her." This finding is also at variance with what Vadies and Hale (1978) found in their study when they used the same statement, that is, more than three-fifths (61%) of their male adolescent subjects agreed with the statement. Thus, it would appear here also that, contrary to findings reported by these authors, the majority of the fathers in Chicago too do not believe in deceit to obtain sexual favors from a young women.

In order to get a reading from the Chicago fathers on whether sex was important to them because it affirms their masculinity they were asked to respond either true or false to the statement "Getting a girl pregnant proves that you are a man." Ninety-three (93) percent of the subjects disagreed. Here too, the speculation is that sex is important to these young fathers for reasons other than to prove their masculinity.

Credence is given to this speculation also in as much as a majority of the Chicago fathers (89%) indicated that they would not want a girl to have an abortion if they were responsibile for the pregnancy. Furthermore, seventy-eight (78) percent stated that they would not want their sexual mate to have an abortion "because it is wrong."

With regard to their attitudes toward contraceptive responsibility, the unwed adolescent fathers seemed to be inclined to share contraceptive responsibility with the female. For example, eighty-one (81) percent of the young fathers in this study disagreed that pregnancy is "her fault" when it occurs, because "she should have protected herself." Similarly, sixty-three (63) percent of the young fathers disagreed that "birth control is for girls only." Not unlike the Tulsa fathers, sixty-three (63) percent of the Chicago fathers thought that "a guy should use birth control whenever possible." In fact, seventy-eight (78) percent of the Chicago fathers disagreed with the statement that "It's not right to use birth control."

2.12 Attitudes Toward Sex, Contraception, and Pregnancy: A Comparative Analysis of The Tulsa and Chicago Samples

No significant differences were found between the Tulsa and Chicago fathers in how they answered the eight statements used to explore their attitudes toward sex, contraception, and pregnancy. The similarities found in the overall major findings, however, were striking. First, eighty-three (83) percent of the combined study population did not believe in deceit in order to obtain sex from a girl. Second, nearly two-thirds of the fathers, in both Tulsa and Chicago, indicated a willingness to share contraceptive responsibility with the female. Third a sizeable majority of the fathers, in each of the cities surveyed, indicated they were against abortions.

TABLE 2.8

Percent Distribution of The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers Responding True Or False To Statements Exploring Attitudes Toward Sex, Contraception, and Pregnancy By Statement

Statement	True		False	
	N	%	N	%
It's not right to use birth control	6	22	21	78
It's O.K. to tell a girl you love her so that you can have sex with her.	6	22	21	78
If a guy gets a girl pregnant, it's her fault, not his because she should have protected herself.	5	18.5	22	81.5
Birth Control is for girls only.	10	37	17	63
Getting a girl pregnant proves that you are a man.	1	4	25	93
A guy should use birth control whenever possible.	17	63	9	33
If I got a girl pregnant, I would want her to have an abortion.	3	11	24	89
If I got a girl pregnant, I would not want her to have an abortion because it's wrong.	21	78	6	22

2.13 Sexual Experience: The Tulsa Sample

Several questions explored certain aspects of the sexual experience of the unmarried adolescent fathers of Tulsa. As reported previously, their mean age at the time of their first sexual intercourse with a girl was 12.8 years, with a range from age 8 to 16 years. All the Tulsa fathers reported having their first coital experience before the age of 17 years.

With respect to how they felt after their first sexual intercourse with a girl, sixty-five (65) percent reported that they felt either satisfaction, happiness, or pride, while thirty-five (35) percent reported that they felt either dissatisfaction, guilt, or confusion. Whatever their feelings, the majority of the young fathers (55 percent) were likely to share knowledge of their sexual activity with their peers. As noted by Vadies and Hale (1977), although sharing knowledge of sexual experience with friends may not be causally related to the need to have sex, peer influence must be considered in an attempt to understand the motivation of adolescent males toward sexual activity.

Table 2.9 reveals the distribution of the respondents by age at first sexual intercourse with a girl. Thirty-five (35) percent of the unwed adolescent fathers had their first sexual intercourse at age 12 years or less; thirty (30) percent at 13-14 years of age; and the rest at 15-16 years of age. The majority of the young fathers had their first sexual experience with a girl between the ages of eight (8) and 13 years.

As reported earlier, the mean age of these young fathers at the time of birth of their first child was 17.8 years, with a range from age 15 to 20 years. Thirty-five (35) percent of the adolescent fathers were 17 years old or younger when they fathered their first child 18-19 years of age; and the rest at 20 years of age. The majority of the Tulsa fathers had fathered their first child between the ages of 15 and 18 years (see Table 2.10).

2.14 Sexual Experience: The Chicago Sample

As with the Tulsa father, several questions explored certain aspects of the sexual experience of the Chicago unmarried adolescent fathers. As reported previously, their mean age at the time of their first sexual intercourse with a girl was 11.8 years, with a range from age 3 to 17 years. The mean age reported here is virtually the same as the mean age (11.6 years) reported by Finkel and Finkel (1975) for the Black adolescent males in their sample. Forty-one (41) percent of the young fathers in this study 11 years or younger when they had their first sexual experience. All the Chicago fathers reported having their first coital experience before the age of 18 years.

With respect to how they felt after their first sexual intercourse with a girl, fifty-nine (59) percent reported that they felt either satisfaction, happiness, or pride, while forty-one (41) percent reported that they felt either dissatisfaction, guilt, or confusion. Unlike the Tulsa fathers, the majority of the Chicago fathers (67%) were not likely to share knowledge of their sexual activity with their peers.

Table 2.11 reveals the distribution of the respondents by age at first sexual intercourse with a girl. Forty-eight (48) percent of the unwed adolescent fathers had their first sexual intercourse at age 12 years or less; 22 percent at 13-14 years of age; and the rest at 15-17 years of age. The majority of the young fathers had their first sexual experience with a girl between the ages of 3 and 13 years.

TABLE 2.9

Percent Distribution of The Tulsa Respondents According To Age At First Sexual Intercourse With A Girl

Age	N	%
≤ 12	7	35
13	4	20
14	2	10
15	6	30
16	1	5

TABLE 2.10

Percent Distribution of The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers According To Age At Birth of Their First Child

Age	N	%
≤ 16	4	20
17	3	15
18	6	30
19	5	25
20	2	10

TABLE 2.11

Percent Distribution of The Chicago Respondents According
To Age At First Sexual Intercourse With A Girl

Age	N	%
≤ 12	13	48
13	4	15
14	2	7.4
15	2	7.4
16	3	11.1
17	3	11.1

As reported earlier, the mean age of the young fathers at the time of the birth of their first child was 17.2 years, with a range from age 14 to 20 years. Sixty-three (63) percent of the Chicago fathers were 17 years old or younger when they fathered their first child; thirty (30) percent of the young fathers had fathered their first child at 18-19 years of age; and the rest at 20 years of age. The majority of the Chicago fathers had fathered their first child between the ages of 14 and 17 years (see Table 2.12).

2.15 Sexual Experience: A Comparative Analysis of The Tulsa and The Chicago Samples

Mixed findings were observed when the Tulsa and Chicago fathers were compared in regard to their sexual experience. For example, no significant differences were noted between the fathers with respect to either their mean age at the time of their first sexual intercourse with a girl or with respect to how they felt after their first sexual intercourse with a girl. In contrast to these findings, a majority of the Chicago fathers were not likely to share knowledge of their sexual activity with peers while a majority of the Tulsa fathers were ($X^2 = 28.39$, df = 1, $P < .001$). Another important difference found between these fahters was that the Tulsa fathers were likely to be in late adolescence (i.e., 18-20 years old) when their first child was born. The Chicago fathers, however, were likely to be in middle adolescence (i.e., 15-17 years old) when they fathered their first child ($X^2 = 3.59$, df = 1, $P = .06$ -- see Table 2.13).

2.16 Contraceptive Utilization: The Tulsa Sample

Illustrated in Table 2.14 is the distribution of the Tulsa respondents by use of contraceptives in sexual intercourse. Forty (40) percent of the young fathers reported using contraceptives when they had sex, while (60) percent stated that they did not use any contraceptives. The main reason given by the

TABLE 2.12

Percent Distribution of The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Father According To Age At Birth of Their First Child

Age	N	%
≤ 16	6	22
17	11	41
18	3	11
19	5	19
20	2	7

TABLE 2.13

Percent Distribution of Unwed Adolescent Fathers According To Age At Birth of Their First Child By City of Residence

	Tulsa		Chicago		Total	
Age	N	%	N	%	N	%
≤ 17	7	35	17	63	24	51
≥ 18	13	65	10	37	23	49
Total	20	43	27	57	47	100

TABLE 2.14

Percent Distribution According To Whether Respondents of Tulsa Use Contraceptives When They Have Sexual Intercourse

Contraceptive Use	N	%
Yes	8	40
No	12	60

adolescent fathers for using contraceptives was to "keep from getting the girl pregnant" (see Table 2.15). "Don't like it" and "Can't get the feeling" were the two most popular responses given by the Tulsa fathers for not using contraceptives when they had sex (see Table 2.16). When these fathers did use a contraceptive, it was most likely to have been a rubber (or condom). (See Table 2.17.)

2.17 Contraceptive Utilization: The Chicago Sample

Displayed in Table 2.18 is the distribution of the Chicago subjects by use of contraceptives by respondents in sexual intercourse. Thirty-three (33) percent of the Chicago fathers reported using contraceptives when they had sex, while 67 percent stated that they did not use any contraceptives. The main reason given by these fathers for using contraceptives was to "keep from getting the girl pregnant." "Don't like it" was the most popular response given by the Chicago fathers for not using contraceptives when they had sex (see Table 2.19). When these young fathers did use a contraceptive, it was most likely to have been a rubber or condom also (see Table 2.20).

2.18 Contraceptive Utilization: A Comparative Analysis of The Tulsa and Chicago Samples

The weight of the findings indicated that the Tulsa and Chicago fathers were more similar than they were different when they were compared on their contraception utilization behavior. Except for the finding that the Tulsa fathers were more likely than were the Chicago fahters to use a condom when they did use a contraceptive for sex (X^2 corrected for continuity = 5.26, df = 1, P =.02), no significant differences were observed between these fathers relative to their use of contraceptives; or, their reasons for using or not using contraceptives when they have sexual intercourse with a girl. It is important to keep in mind, here, that neither the Tulsa fathers nor the Chicago fathers were inclined toward using a contraceptive when they had sex with a girl.

TABLE 2.15

Reasons Given By Respondents of Tulsa For Using Contraceptives

Reason	N	%
"Keep from getting the girl pregnant."	6	30
"To prevent V.D."	1	5
"To prevent V.D. and to keep from getting the girl pregnant."	1	5

TABLE 2.16

Reasons Given By The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers For Not Using Contraceptives

Reason	N	%
"Don't like it."	4	5
"Girl uses the pill."	2	10
"Can't get the feeling."	3	15
"Don't Believe in them."	1	5
"No time to use anything."	1	5
"Haven't ever tried them."	1	5

Table 2.17

Percent Distribution of Respondents of Tulsa By Form of Contraceptive Used

Form of Contraceptive	N	%
Rubber (or Condom)	17	85
None	3	15

TABLE 2.18

Percent Distribution According To Whether Respondents of Chicago Use Contraceptives When They Have Sexual Intercourse

Contraceptive Use	N	%
Yes	9	33
No	18	67

TABLE 2.19

Reasons Given By The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers For Not Using Contraceptives

REASONS

"I didn't need it the first time."

"I don't like them."

"I don't feel right putting something on."

"I never messed with them before."

"I just don't like them."

"I don't like it."

"I don't have none."

"I've just never used one."

"I really wasn't aware of it - she wouldn't put up with it."

"I don't like it."

"No need for it."

"I don't think they should be used if you like her enough."

"I just don't."

"They don't feel right."

"I don't feel its necessary."

"I look into it to see what the female is on."

"Because I'm a naturalist."

TABLE 2.20

Percent Distribution of Respondents of Chicago By Form of Contraceptive Used

Form of Contraceptive	N	%
Rubber (or Condom)	13	48
None	14	52

SECTION III

Measurement and Analysis of the Attitudes of the Unwed Adolescent Fathers Toward Fatherhood

Section III presents a discussion of the Tulsa and Chicago fathers' attitudes toward fatherhood. Five questions were used to elicit knowledge on the young fathers' attitudes toward their parenthood. These questions are as follows:

- Right before your first child was born how ready did you feel to be a parent?
- Knowing what you know now and looking back, how ready would you say you really were at that time?
- As an unwed father, are you concerned about your child's future?
- Do you see anything wrong in having a child out-of-wedlock?
- Do you see your experience, as an unwed father, as one that will change your life in a positive fashion?

3.1 Attitudes Toward Fatherhood: The Tulsa Sample

Since it is commonly thought that adolescent fatherhood is a mistake, the Tulsa fathers were asked to respond to the questions, "Right before your first child was born, how ready did you feel to be a parent?" Most of the fathers responded that they were either "very ready" (30 percent) or "somewhat ready" (35 percent); the remainder of the young fathers reported that they were either "somewhat unready" (20 percent) or "very unready" (15 percent). These responses were compared to those given for the question "Knowing what you know now and looking back, how ready would you say you really were at that time?" These comparisons are presented in Table 3.1. The proportion of fathers who felt "very unready" did not change. However, the frequency of those who felt that they were either "very ready" or "somewhat ready" to be a father decreased from sixty-five (65) percent to fifty-five (55) percent, while those who felt that they were either "very unready" or "somewhat unready" increased from 35 percent to 45 percent.

In accord with the fathers' perceived readiness to be a parent, fifty-five (55) percent of them indicated they believe their experience as an unwed father would change their life in a positive way. This finding may explain in part why seventy (70) percent of the Tulsa fathers saw nothing wrong in having a child out-of-wedlock. Despite how the fathers viewed their parenthood, all of them (100%) indicated they were concerned about their child's future.

3.2 Attitudes Toward Fatherhood: The Chicago Sample

Initially when asked about their readiness to be a parent before the birth of their child, fifty-nine (59) percent of the Chicago fathers indicated a degree of unreadiness to be a parent. The remaining forty-one (41) percent indicated a degree of readiness to be a parent. This situation was observed to be reverse when the fathers responded to the question: Knowing what you know now and looking back, how ready would you say you really were at that time? The proportion of those Chicago fathers who felt a degree of readiness to be a father increased from 41 percent to 59 percent while those who felt some degree of unreadiness to be a father decreased from 59 percent to 41 percent. These differences, as noted in Table 3.2, however, were found not to be significant statistically.

Not unlike the Tulsa fathers, a majority of the Chicago fathers (70%) indicated they believed their experience as an unwed father would change their life in a positive fashion. This finding also could explain in part why eighty-nine (89) percent of these fathers saw nothing wrong in having a child out-of-wedlock. The majority of the Chicago fathers (96%) too expressed concern about their child's future.

89

TABLE 3.1

The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Perception of Readiness For Parenthood Before and After Birth of Child

Perceived Readiness	Before Birth N	%	After Birth N	%
Very Ready	6	30	5	25
Somewhat Ready	7	35	6	30
Somewhat Unready	4	20	6	30
Very Unready	3	15	3	15

TABLE 3.2

The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Perception of Readiness For Parenthood Before and After Birth of Child

Perceived Readiness	Before Birth N	%	After Birth N	%
Very Ready	7	26	7	26
Somewhat Ready	4	15	9	33
Somewhat Unready	13	48	5	19
Very Unready	3	11	6	22

3.3 Attitudes Toward Fatherhood: A Comparative Analysis of The Tulsa and Chicago Samples

Just one notable difference was observed between the Tulsa and Chicago fathers when they were compared on the variables selected to assess their attitudes toward fatherhood. When asked about their readiness to be a parent prior to the birth of their first child, sixty-five (65) percent of the Tulsa fathers expressed a degree of readiness to be a parent. In sharp contrast, fifty-nine (59) percent of the Chicago fathers indicated a degree of unreadiness to be a parent prior to the birth of their first child. This difference in the fathers' perception of readiness for parenthood was found to be statistically significant at alpha equals .10 ($X^2 = 2.71$, df = 1).

SECTION IV

Measurement and Analysis of The Relationship Between The Unwed Adolescent Fathers and the Mothers of Their First Child

Section IV describes the nature of select aspects of the relationship between the Tulsa and Chicago fathers and the mothers of their first child. Seven questions were used in the presentation of the results that follow. In the main, these questions dealt with the fathers' perception of his relationship with the mother of his child.

4.1 Relationship Between Adolescent Fathers and The Unwed Mother: The Tulsa Sample

In Table 4.1, it will be observed that, both prior to and after pregnancy of the mother of his first child, the majority of the Tulsa fathers perceived their relationship with the mother of their child to be one of love. Similarly, it will be observed in Table 4.2 that a majority of these fathers said they

TABLE 4.1

The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Perception of The Relationship Between Them and The Mothers of Their First Child Before and After The Mothers Became Pregnant

Character of Relationship	Before Pregnancy N	%	After Pregnancy N	%
Love	15	75	16	80
Friendship	3	15	3	15
Casual	2	10	1	5
Hostile	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

TABLE 4.2

The Tulsa Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Perception of How They Believed The Mothers of Their First Child Regarded Their Relationship Before and After The Mothers Became Pregnant

Character of Relationship	Before Pregnancy N	%	After Pregnancy N	%
Love	19	95	18	90
Friendship	1	5	1	5
Casual	-0-	-0-	1	5
Hostile	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

believed the mothers of their first child felt the relationship between them was one of love. These findings would suggest the relationship between these unmarried young parents is a meaningful one. This suggestion is given support by previous findings reported by Pannor et.al. (1965) and Sauber and Rubinstein (1965).

Furthermore support may be noted in that eighty-five (85) percent of the Tulsa fathers responded in the negative to the question "Do you see serious problems in the current relationship between you and the mother of your first child?" Of those fathers who gave positive answers to this question, they described their problems as:

> "Child support; she doesn't want me to see the baby."
>
> "Lack of understanding, communication, and disagreeing in general."
>
> "Being young and other fellows trying to talk to her; and arguments around things that the baby does."

Finally, with regard to sexual relations between the young fathers and the mother of their first child, seventy (70) percent of the Tulsa fathers had sexual intercourse with the mother of their first child with full knowledge of the potential outcome, that is, pregnancy. This too would suggest that their relationship may have been more than casual.

4.2 Relationship Between Adolescent Father and The Unwed Mother: The Chicago Sample

In Table 4.3 it will be seen that, both prior to and after the pregnancy of the mothers of his first child, a majority of the Chicago fathers, as well, perceived their relationship with the mother of their child to be one of love. Although a majority of these fathers believed the mother of the child felt the relationship between them was one of love both prior to and after the pregnancy (see Table 4.4) they did not believe as strongly after the birth of the child (63%) as they did before the birth of the child (89%). This difference was found to be significant statistically (X^2 corrected for continuity = 3.65, df = 1, P = .07).

Additional support is given to these findings as 74 percent of the Chicago fathers responded in the negative to the question "Do you see serious problems in the current relationship between you and the mother of your first child?" Of those fathers who gave positive answers to this question, they described their problem as:

> "Not spending enough time with the mother" (that is, mother of his child).
>
> "She's going with someone else and I am also."
>
> "With girlfriend's mother."
>
> "Her mother is turning her against me."
>
> "Not communicating."
>
> "Lack of money."

Finally, with regard to sexual relations between the young fathers and the mother of their first child, seventy-four (74) percent of the Chicago fathers had sexual intercourse with the mother of their first with full knowledge of the potential outcome, that is, pregnancy. When these findings are viewed collectively, they suggest that the relationship between the Chicago fathers and the mothers of their first child was likely to be more than casual.

4.3 Relationship Between Adolescent Fathers and The Unwed Mother: A Comparative Analysis of The Tulsa and Chicago Samples

As has been the case for much of the analysis presented in the report, little difference was noted, in the responses of the Tulsa and Chicago fathers, when they were compared on the seven questions used to assess the nature of the

TABLE 4.3

The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Perception of The Relationship Between Them And The Mothers of Their First Child Before and After The Mothers Became Pregnant

Character of Relationship	Before Pregnancy N	Before Pregnancy %	After Pregnancy N	After Pregnancy %
Love	17	63	17	63
Friendship	5	18.5	6	22
Casual	5	18.5	3	11
Hostile	-0-	-0-	1	4

TABLE 4.4

The Chicago Unwed Adolescent Fathers' Perception of How They Believed The Mothers of Their First Child Regarded Their Relationship Before and After The Mothers Became Pregnant

Character of Relationship	Before Pregnancy N	Before Pregnancy %	After Pregnancy N	After Pregnancy %
Love	24	89	17	63
Friendship	1	4	6	22.2
Casual	2	7	2	7.4
Hostile	-0-	-0-	2	7.4

relationship between them and the mothers of their first child. The one important difference that was found was more in degree than in direction, that is, a majority of both the Tulsa and Chicago fathers believed the mother of their child regarded their relationship to be one of love after her pregnancy; however, the Tulsa fathers were more likely to believe this about the mother of their child (90%) than were the Chicago fathers (63%). This difference was found to be significant statistically (X^2 corrected for continuity = 3.11, df = 1, P = .08). All other comparison between these fathers' responses, on the seven question alluded to above, did not produce any significant differences between them.

Discussion and Conclusion

An exploratory study was conducted to identify and describe quantitatively problems encountered by two select samples of Black unmarried adolescent fathers and ways in which they cope with their problems. Additional objectives of the study were to identify and describe: (1) the sexual knowledge, attitudes, and practices of the subjects; (2) the attitudes of the unwed adolescent fathers toward fatherhood; and (3) the relationship between the unwed adolescent father and the mother of his first child. These particular objectives were selected because little or no information has been documented on the Black unwed adolescent father, especially in terms of who he is, what he is like, and what kinds of problems he has.

The data for this investigation were secured through two nonprobability samples of young fathers living in Tulsa, Oklahoma (N=20) and in Chicago, Illinois (N=27). The study population was identified and selected with the help of the social service staff of the Margaret Hudson Program (MHP) in Tulsa and the social service staff of the Arts of Living Institute in Chicago.

Additionally, the unwed mothers who were registered with both these agencies also assisted in the identification and selection of the young fathers for this study. Data were collected from the fathers through the use of an interview schedule; and all of the interviewing was done by two Black males.

Both descriptive and dichotomous analyses were used to achieve the study objectives. Descriptive statistics were employed in this study because these statistics are appropriate in nonexperimental studies in which the researcher describes a sample without generalizing the findings beyond the sample. The reasons for using dichotomous analyses were to identify and describe trends in the data as accurately as possible, and to suggest hypothese for future testing or research priorities. Among the more salient advantages of dichotomous analyses is that they allow one to make elementary comparisons within narrow ranges of a confounder so as to reduce the confoundedness. On the other hand, dichotomous categories without distinguishing gradations lack sensitivity.

Unmarried Adolescent Fathers: Who He Is, What He Is Like, What Kinds of Problems He Has, And The Ways He Copes With Them

When comparisons were made between the Tulsa and Chicago fathers in terms of who they were and what they were like, it was found overall they were more similar than they were different. Several significant differences, however, were found to exist between these young fathers. Specifically, the young fathers of Tulsa were more likely to be employed and have a high school education than were the young fathers of Chicago. Conversely, the fathers of Chicago were more likely to come from families with a yearly income of $10,000 or more than were the fathers of Tulsa. Also, the Chicago fathers were less likely to be favorably disposed twoard school than were the Tulsa fathers; and, they did not appear to get along as well with their teachers as did the Tulsa fathers. Collectively, these finding suggest caution against stereotyping unmarried adolescent fathers and their needs.

Relative to their problems, no significant differences were found between the Tulsa and Chicago fathers in the specific content of the problems they had encountered or the problems they were likely to dicuss with someone when they ask them for help. Of more significance, however, is that the problems faced by these fathers were observed to vary. For example, these fathers reported having problems with: providing for their child; the unwed mothers; the young mother's family and their own as well; their child restricting their freedom; being able to finish school; finding employment; coping with being a father; and, with setting a good example in their child's presence. These findings provide further support for caution against stereotyping young fathers and their service needs.

Sexual Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of the Unmarried Adolescent Fathers

An analysis of the sexual knowledge, attitudes, and practices of the unmarried adolescent fathers was carried out because very little is known about the sexual development, and behaviors of young Black fathers. It was shown that when both the Tulsa and Chicago fathers first learned about sex their main source of information were their friends. This finding is in accord with what has been reported by others relative to the sexual knowledge of male adolescent (see for example Lancet et.al., 1978; Finkel and Finkel, 1975).

Concomitantly, this finding may explain, in part, why the level of sexual knowledge among the subjects appears to leave something to be desired. For instance, although the majority of the fathers, in both cities, knew that V.D.

could cause a baby to be stillborn or blind, most of them indicated that it was abnormal for children and teenagers to masturbate. Furthermore, a large majority of the fathers could not identify the time during the menstrual cycle when conception was most likely to occur. Perhaps the gaps in these fathers sexual knowledge will not be hard to fill, since in both Tulsa (85%) and Chicago (93%), they indicated strongly they were amenable to sex education.

The young fathers' attitudes toward sex, contraception, and pregnancy, however, were shown to be mixed. Unlike what Vadies and Hale (1977) reported on adolescent males, a majority of the Tulsa and Chicago young fathers did not think it was O.K. to lie to a girl in order to have sex with her; nor did they think that getting a girl pregnant proved that you were a man. These findings would suggest that sex is important to these young fathers for reasons other than to prove their masculinity. One speculation is that sex is important to these young fathers as a means of demonstrating fertility.

This speculation was given some support when it was shown that all of the Tulsa fathers and eighty-nine (89) percent of the Chicago fathers indicated they would not want a girl to have an abortion if they were responsible for the pregnancy. Further, a large majority of the fathers, in both Tulsa (95%) and Chicago (78%), responded they would not want their sexual mate to have an abortion "because it is wrong."

Regarding contraception, a majority of the adolescent fathers reported that they did not use contraceptives when they had sexual intercourse. Various reasons were given for not using contraceptives, and the most popular of these was likely to be either that they did not like it or they could not "get the feeling." When the young fathers did use a contraceptive, it was most likely to be a condom (or a rubber), and the reason for using it was likely to be that the young fathers wanted either to keep a gril from getting pregnant or to protect themselves from getting (V.D.). Even though the majority of the adolescent fathers tended not to use contraceptives when they had sex, it was found that most of them were inclined toward sharing contraceptive responsibility with the female. This finding tends to support the finding reported by Vadies and Hale (1977) that young males view contraception more as a dual responsibility, than as the responsibility of the female. Even so, there is an obvious need for further research on the contraceptive behavior of unmarried adolescent fathers both prior to and after the birth of their first child.

Attitudes of the Unwed Adolescent Fathers Toward Fatherhood

The results obtained from several questions used to assess the young fathers attitudes toward fatherhood were mixed. For example, prior to the birth of their first child, a majority of the Tulsa fathers indicated some degreee of readiness to be a father while just the opposite was true for the Chicago fathers; however, after the birth of their first child, a majority of both the Chicago and the Tulsa fathers expressed some degree of readiness to be a father. Perhaps some support is garnered for this finding as it was also found that a majority of the subjects, in both cities, saw nothing wrong with having a child out-of-wedlock. Additionally, both populations of fathers believed strongly that their experience as unwed fathers would change their life in a positive way. Contrary to this finding, the literature would suggest that adolescent fatherhood could have deleterious consequences for them (e.g., Earls and Siegel, 1980; Furstenburg, 1976; Caughlan, 1960). Regardless of how the unmarried adolescent fahters perceived fatherhood, overwhelmingly they were concerned about their child's future. What can be concluded about these collective findings is that both Tulsa and Chicago fathers appear to have been favorably disposed toward fatherhood.

The Relationship Between The Unwed Adolescent Fathers and The Mothers of Their First Child

An analysis of the data pertaining to the relationship between the unwed adolescent fathers and the mothers of their first child suggested that the relationship between the two of them appeared to have been more than casual. For example, it was shown that, both prior to and after the pregnancy of the mother of their first child, a majority of the Tulsa and the Chicago fathers perceived their relationship with the mother to be one of love, and that they believed the mothers of their first child felt the same way. Further support is provided for the above suggestion in that eighty-five (85) percent of the Tulsa fathers and seventy-four (74) percent of the Chicago fathers responded in the negative to the question, "Do you see serious problems in the current relationship between you and the mothers of your first child?" Also, and with respect to sexual relations between the young fathers and the mothers of their first child, seventy (70) percent of the Tulsa fathers and seventy-four (74) percent of the Chicago fathers reported they had sexual intercourse with the mothers of their first child with full knowledge of the potential outcome, that is, pregnancy. That relationship between unwed parents may be more meaningful than one might suspect has been reported in other studies (Pannor et.al., 1968; Sauber and Rubinstein, 1965). Pannor et.al. (1968) noted, however, that such relationships are progressively redefined, becoming more realistic as casework with the couple proceeds.

Limitations of the Study

Consideration must be given to the limitations of this study that relate to the usefulness of the outcome findings. The first point is that the questions comprising the interview schedule may have been worded in such a way as to elicit socially desirable answers from the subjects. A second point is the size and biased nature of the sample. The small number of subjects decreased the potential influence of the actual findings on the knowledge base about unmarried adolescent fathers, especially with regard to the various age of adolescents. As Chilman (1978) has pointed out, it makes a difference whether the adolescent is aged 12, 13, 14, 15, and so on. A final point for consideration is that no comparative cohort of non-fathers was used in either of the cities surveyed. Thus one cannot be certain that the findings are unique for young Black fathers. It may be what is learned from the young fathers studied here may be generic for all youth.

Strengths of the Study

Careful consideration also must be given to several strengths of this study. The first one is the effort to study the sexual development, attitudes, and behavior of Black unmarried adolescent fathers. Within the literature, few investigators have intentionally studied unwed adolescent fathers, and even fewer have studied Black adolescent fathers. This has happened because young unwed fathers have proved to be an exceptionally difficult group to reach. Another strength is that the majority of the items comprising the interview schedule for the current study were items that have been used by other researchers investigating adolescent sexual behavior and unwed fatherhood (e.g., Pannor, et.al., 1965; Robbins and Lynn, 1973; Meyerowitz and Malev, 1973; Vadies and Hale, 1977; Lancet, et.al., 1978).

A final strength was the selection of a population of Black unwed fathers. This has resulted in findings that are not confounded by race. Moreover, findings from studies on other populations are often applied to Blacks without verification that the findings do, indeed, apply to Blacks. Perhaps the failure of some of the data outcomes of this study to agree with those of other studies is a reflection of the differences represented by race, social class, or values.

Suggestions for Future Research

Several ideas and processes to be considered for future research have grown out of this research. First, more consideration and systematic study of unmarried adolescent fathers must be carried out. Research needs to be done with larger and varying samples of unwed adolescent fathers in order to delineate age differences with reference to unmarried adolescent fathering. Also, research needs to be done to detect differences between unwed fathers living in urban areas versus those living in rural areas.

Another important consideration for future research concerns the investigation of factors that may contribute to unwed fatherhood. The results from this study revealed that a majority of the unwed adolescent fathers came from large families. This finding would suggest that an important next step for future research would be to address the question "How does family composition affect the character of sex role development of adolescent males in the family?" The main reason for addressing this question is to attempt to capture the effects of family composition on the character of sex role socialization of adolescent males, and to specify how the "positive" or "negative" character of sex role development emerges in the social context of the family.

There was inconsistency in the young fathers' responses about contraceptive responsibility and the way they behaved. For example, a majority of the fathers, in both cities surveyed, indicated a willingness to share contraceptive responsibility with the female. Concomitantly, however, most of these young fathers, in both Tulsa and Chicago, reported they did not use contraceptives wehn they had sex with a girl. It is possible these fathers may be more willing to share contraceptive responsibility with the girl after the baby is borned or is expected rather than prior to conception of the child. Whatever the reason, more information needs to be documented on the willingness of young fathers to share contraceptive responsibility with his female sexual partner.

It was shown these fathers were likely to seek out help with their problems from their family of origin, especially their mothers. More knowledge is needed regarding some of their other coping skills and behavior. For example, more needs to be known about the service utilization patterns of young fathers. It would be useful for practitioners to know to what extent are young fathers interested in using social services designed for them; and, what services unmarried adolescent fathers would like to see offered to them and their newly formed family.

The young fathers in this report indicated an overwhelming concern for the future of their child. This concern should be pursued. There is an urgent need to know the nature and extent of the young father's interaction with his child. One important question that comes to mind is how much influence does the young fathers have in the care and rearing of his child?

Other important questions that need to be researched include the following: Is there a difference in the general well-being of unwed adolescent fathers and that of unwed adolescent nonfathers? Are unwed adolescent nonfathers more likely to use contraceptives when they have sexual intercourse with a girl than are unwed adolescent fathers? Do unwed adolescent fathers have a greater proportion of siblings who are unwed parents than do unwed adolescent nonfathers? Answers to these important questions will contribute to building a more coherent theory for studying unmarried adolescent fathers.

Policy Implications

Several policy implications for program planning and implementation by social service and public health agencies have emerged from this research. For example, only one of the forty-seven subjects indicated they would seek out a human service agency for advice or help with a problem. What is needed to get them involved, it seems, is assertive outreach (Pannor and Massarik, 1968). In addition to reaching out to young fathers, an agency's outreach program must be extended to their male friends and to the families of the young parents if they are to be served adequately.

In each of the cities surveyed, a majority of the fathers were shown to have concrete and emotional needs with which they needed assistance; and, these fathers were likely to seek help with their difficulties from their family of origin. It is doubtful, however, that family members of the young fathers are capable of addressing all of their various needs as an unwed adolescent father satisfactorily. Consequently, it would seem then, that agencies and institutions, serving family planning needs, have a role to play in the alleviation of difficulties faced by unmarried adolescent fathers. As suggested by Howard (1975) human service agencies might provide information that may be needed by young fathers (e.g., his rights under the law). The giving of information to fathers could often be combined with follow-through services of one sort or another. On many levels, human service agencies also might provide various kinds of practical help and counseling to meet both the concrete and emotional needs of young fathers.

Perhaps the main policy implication to emerged from this research relate to the findings that revealed sexual activity had begun for a majority of the subjects (Tulas 55%; Chicago 63%) by 13 years of age. Obviously, then, sex education offered in high school comes late. The author joins with other researchers who are calling for comprehensive and early sex education programs in the schools as well as other social institutions (see Finkel and Finkel, 1975; Vadies and Hale, 1977; Lancet et.al., 1978; Shapiro, 1980). If agencies and institutions, serving family planning needs, were to offer comprehensive sex education programs to young fathers that emphasize contraceptive responsibility, it could result in a lower incidence of repeat unmarried adolescent fatherhood.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bernstein, Rose. *Helping unmarried mothers*. New York Association Press, 1971.

Caughlan, Jeanne. "Psychic hazards of unwed paternity." *Social Work*, 5, 1960, 29-35.

Chilman, Catherine. *Adolescent sexuality in a changing American society: Social and psychological perspectives*. U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Public Health Service, National Institute of Health. DHEW Publication, No. (NIH) 79-1426, 1978.

Earls, Felton and Ben Siegel. "Precocious fathers." *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 50 (July, 1980), 469-480.

Elster, Arthur and Panzarine, Sue. "Unwed teenage fathers: A preliminary report on emotional and health education needs." University of Utah and University of Rochester, 1979, pp. 1-16. (Mimeographed)

Finkel, Madelon and Finkel, David. "Sexual and contraceptive knowledge, attitudes and behavior of male adolesents." *Family Planning Perspectives*, 7 (November/December 1975), 250-260.

Furstenburg, Frank F., Jr. "The social consequences of teenage parenthood." *Family Planning Perspectives*, 8 (1976), 148-164.

Howard, Marion. "Improving services for young fathers." *Sharing Among Those Concerned with School-Age Parents*, (Spring, 1975). Child Welfare League of America, Inc., Washington, D.C.

Kreech, Florence. "The current role and services of agencies for unwed parents and their children." *Child Welfare*, Vol. LIII, No. 5 (May, 1974), 323-328.

Lancet, M.; Modan, B.; Kavenaki, S.; Antonowski, H.; and Shoham, I. Sexual knowledge, attitudes and practices of Israeli adolescents." *American Journal of Public Health*, 68 (1978), 1083-1089.

Meyerowitz, J. and Malev. J. "Pubescent attitudinal correlates antecedent of adolescent illegitmate pregnancy." *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 2 (1973), 251-258.

Nelson, R. and Segrist, A. "Raising the male consciousness through group experience." *School Counselor*, 24, 1976, pp. 93-101.

Pannor, Reuben. *The unmarried father*. New York: Springer, 1971.

____________, et.al. "The umarried father: Demonstration and evaluation of an assertive casework approach." *Illegitimacy: Data and Findings for Prevention. Treatment and Policy Implication*. Edited by the National Council on Illegitimacy. New York: National Council on Illegitimacy, 1965.

____________ and Evans, Byron W. "The unmarried father revisited." *Journal of School Health*, 45 (1975), 286-291.

__________ and Fred Massarik. The umarried father: Findings and implications for practice, effective services for unmarried parents and their children: Innovative community approaches. New York: National Council on Illegitimacy, 1968.

Pauker, Jerome. "Fathers of children conceived out of wedlock: Pregnancy high school, psychology test results." Developmental Psychology, 4 (1971), 215-218.

Pfuhl, Erdwin. "The unwed father: A "non-deviant" rule breaker. The Sociological Quarterly, 19 (Winter, 1978), 113-128.

Robbins, Mina-May and Lynn, David. "The unwed fathers: Generation, ricidivism and attitudes about intercourse in California youth authority wards." Journal of Sex Research, 9 (November, 1973), 334-341.

Sauber, M. "The role of the unmarried father." Welfare In Review, 4 (1966), 15-18.

Sauber, Mignon and Rubinstein, Elaine. Experiences of the unwed mothers as a parent. New York: Community Council of Greater New York, 1965.

Scales, Peter. "Males and morals: Teenage contraceptive behavior amid the double standard." The Family Coordinator, (July, 1977), 211-222.

Shapiro, Constance H. "Sexual learning: The short-changed adolescent male." Social Work, 25, (1980), 489-483.

Theodorson, George A. and Achilles G Theodorson. Modern dictionary of Sociology. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1969.

Vadies, Eugene and Hale, Darryl. "Attitudes of adolescent males toward abortion contraception and sexuality." Social Work in Health Care, 3 (Winter 1978), 169-174.

Ventura, Stephanie J. "Teenage childrearing: United States, 1966-75." Monthly Vital Statistics Report: Natality Statistics from the National Center for Health Statistics, Vol. 26, No. 5, Supplement, September 8, 1977.

Vincent, Clark. "The unmarried fathers and the mores: Sexual exploiter as an ex post facto label." American Sociological Review, 25 (1960), 40-46.

__________, Unmarried mothers. New York: Free Press, 1961.

Young Leotine. Out of wedlock. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1954.

Zelnik, Melvin, et.al. "Probabilities of intercourse and conception among U.S. teenage women, 1971 and 1976." Family Planning Perspectives, (May/June, 1979), 177-183.

APPENDIX A

CONSENT FORM AND INTERVIEW SCHEDULES

HOWARD UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE FOR URBAN AFFAIRS AND RESEARCH

NAME OF PROJECT

NAME(S) OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR(S): ______________________________

____

NAME OF RESPONDENT: ______________________________

ADDRESS: ______________________________

I have been satisfactorily informed of the procedures involved in the above named project.

I understand the possible risks and benefits that may result because of my participation in this project.

I am aware that I am free to withdraw this consent and discontinue participation in this project at any time.

I understand that in the event of physical injury resulting from the research procedures, financial compensation is not available, and only immediate, essential medical treatment will be provided free of charge.

______________________	______________________
Auditor - Witness	Signature of Subject

If you have any questions at any time that you would like to discuss, call the (name of project) at (telephone number) or the Vice-President for Health Affairs, 636-7470.

IUAR FORM -025
3/81

HOWARD UNIVERSITY
MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

UNMARRIED ADOLESCENT FATHER STUDY

The Margaret Hudson Program, Inc.

CONFIDENTIAL INTERVIEW

CARD 1

I.D.# ____________________ 01-02/

Date of Today ________________ 03-06/
MO DAY

Introduction: Hello. I'm (your name). I am working with a group who is studying adolescent fathers. We are working with young fathers registered with The Margaret Hudson Program. I would like to invite you to help us by participating in this study.

We'd like very much for you to help us by answering some questions about you and your family, about problems you face as a young father and the ways you handle them, and about your sexual knowledge, attitudes, and practices. You may at any time refuse to answer a question. It will take about half an hour or so to answer these questions.

All the information you give us will be kept confidential. Your name will not be used to report any of the results to persons you may come in contact with at The Margaret Hudson Program.

If you're willing to help us with this study, I'd like you to sign this agreement to answer questions after you have read it.

(SHOW CONSENT FORM)

CARD 1

First of all, I would like to ask you a few general questions about you and your family.

1. What is your date of birth? ______ MO ______ DAY ______ YEAR 07-12/

2. How many brothers and sisters do you have? ______ NUMBER 13-14/

3. When you were growing up did you live with both your father and mother? YES - 1 NO - 2 ___15/

3a. If no, with whom do you live:

1 - Guardian
2 - Relative (please specify) ______________
3 - Other (please specify)________________ ___16/

4. When you were growing up would you say that most of the time you were closer to your: 1- Mother 2 - Father 3 - Neither ___17/

5. Which phrase below best characterizes most of your relations with your family when you were growing up. Would you say:

1 - Very happy
2 - Happy
3 - Somewhat satisfactory ___18/
4 - Somewhat dissatisfactory
5 - Unhappy
6 - Very unhappy ___18/

6. What type of school are you going to now?

1 - Junior High or Middle School
2 - Senior High School
3 - College
4 - Business or Technical School
5 - Other (What: ____________________)
6 - Not in school now ___19/

6a. How many years of school have you completed? (Highest grade completed) ___20-21/

6b. In general, how (do or did) you feel about going to school? Would you say, you:

1 - Dislike it very much
2 - Dislike it somewhat
3 - Like it somewhat
4 - Like it very much
5 - Don't care one way or the other ___22/

6c. Did your mother usually put you down? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___23/

6d. Would you say that your teacher did not like you very much?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___24/

7. Are you currently employed?

YES - 1 NO - 2 ___25/

8. On the average, how many days a week do you do things with your friends after school or work or in the evenings?

1 - None (Please Go to (9)
2 - One
3 - Two
4 - Three
5 - Four
6 - Five
7 - Six
8 - Seven ___26/

8a. Where do you and your friends usually go?

____

Now, I have a few questions about religion.

9. What is your religious preference? Would you say:

1 - Baptist
2 - Methodist
3 - Catholic
4 - Holiness
5 - Jehovah Witness
6 - Episcopal
7 - Lutheran
8 - Seventh Day Adventist
9 - Islam
10 - Other (Please Specify) ____________
11 - None ___27/

10. Are you an active member of any church?
YES - 1 NO - 1 ___28/

11. Do you attend religious crusades, revival meetings or missions? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___29/

12. Do you attend religious services? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___30/

13. Do you listen to religious services over radio or television?
Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___31/

14. Do you sometimes pray, either privately or with family?
Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___32/

15. Do you listen to religious music? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___33/

16. Do ideas you have learned from religion sometimes help you
understand your own life? Would you say:

YES - 1 NO - 2 ___34/

17. Do you sometimes contribute money to your church? Would you
say: YES - 1 NO - 2 ___35/

18. Do you regularly take part in various activities in your
religious organization? Would you say?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___36/

Those are all the questions I have about religion. Now I would like to ask you some questions about how you feel about your life.

19. Do you feel that what happens to you is your own doing? Would you
say: YES - 1 NO - 2 ___37/

20. When you make plans, do you feel that you're almost certain
that you can make them work? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___38/

21. Do you feel that you can do very little to change your life?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___39/

22. Do you feel that it is mostly luck if one succeeds or gets
ahead? YES - 1 NO - 2 ___40/

23. Do you get a lot of fun out of life?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___41/

24. When you were growing up have you ever felt that you would
like to move away from home?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___42/

25. If someone insulted you, would you probably forgive him or her?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___43/

26. Do you feel useless at times?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___44/

Now, I would like to ask you a few questions about problems you have faced as a young father.

27. In your opinion, and from what you have seen yourself, what are some of the problems you have faced as a young father? (INTERVIEWER, GET A LISTING IN THE MINIMUM TIME POSSIBLE WITHOUT RUSHING THE RESPONDENT. AS SOON AS RESPONDENT PROVIDES ENOUGH OF A DESCRIPTION OF A GIVEN PROBLEM FOR YOU TO WRITE IT DOWN SAY: O.K. WHAT OTHER PROBLEMS OR DIFFICULTIES CAN YOU THINK OF?)

Problem list (probe for at least several problems):

1. ____________________

2. ____________________

3. ____________________

4. ____________________

5. ____________________

28. If you had a personal problem, who or where would you go to for advice or help? (If a person, have respondent specify his relationship to that person.) ____________________

____

(If agency, probe respondent for type of agency.) ____________________

____

29. Which problems do you think are best to take to your family, your friends, or to agencies?

Problem list: FAMILY / FRIENDS / AGENCIES

1. ____________________

2. ____________________

3. ____________________

4. ____________________

5. ____________________

30. Who would you go to first with a problem? Would you say:

1 - Family
2 - Friends or
3 - Outsiders (agencies) ___45/

31. When you ask someone for help with a personal problem what types of problems do you discuss with them?

Problem list:

1. ____________________

2. ____________________

3. ____________________

4. ____________________

5. ____________________

Now I would like to ask you some questions about your sexual knowledge, attitudes, and practices.

The following ten (10) statements that I am about to read to you are to be answered "True" or "False!"

After I read each statement, tell me if you think the statement is True or False.

32. It's not right to use birth control.
TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ___46/

33. It's O.K. to tell a girl that you love her so that you can have sex with her.
TRUE - 1 FALSE - 1 ___47/

34. If a guy gets a girl pregnant, it's not her fault, not his because, she should have protected herself.
TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ___48/

35. If I got a girl pregnant, I would want her to have an abortion.
TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ___49/

36. Birth control is for girls only.
TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ___50/

37. Getting a girl pregnant proves that you are a man.
TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ___51/

38. Sex education is nothing but a waste of time.
TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ___52/

39. A guy should use birth control whenever possible.
TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ___53/

40. My friends and I talk about the sex that we have.
TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ___54/

41. If I got a girl pregnant, I would not want her to have an abortion because it's wrong.
TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ___55/

Those are all the questions I have that require a True or False answer. Now I'd like to ask you some general questions about your sexual behavior.

42. When you first learned about sex, what was your main source of informati information? Would you say:

1 - Friends
2 - Books
3 - Mother
4 - Doctor (specialist)
5 - Pamphlets
6 - Teacher
7 - Father
8 - Films
9 - Other (please specifiy) ________________ ___56/

43. How old were you when you first had sexual intercourse with a a girl? ___57-58/

44. How did you feel after your first sexual intercourse with a girl? Would you say:

1 - Satisfaction
2 - Happiness or Pride
3 - Guilt
4 - Dissatisfaction
5 - Confusion ___59/

45. When you have sexual intercourse, do you use contraceptives?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___60/

45a. If yes, why? ________________

45b. If no, why not? ________________

(If 45b, skip to question 47)

46. What forms of contraceptives have you used?
List those given:

1. ______________________________

2. ______________________________

3. ______________________________

4. ______________________________

5. ______________________________

Now I have some questions about your knowledge and opinions about sex.

47. Do you feel that it is abnormal for children and teenagers to masturbate? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 DON'T KNOW - 3 ___61/

48. Do you feel that it is abnormal for teenagers to think a lot about sex? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 DON'T KNOW - 3 ___62/

49. Do you know what V.D. (Veneral Disease) is? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 DON'T KNOW - 3 ___63/
(If no or don't know, skip to question 51.)

49a. If yes, ask respondent what is V.D. in his opinion.

1 - YES - Gonorrhea
2 - YES - Syphilis
3 - YES - Both Gonorrhea and Syphilis
4 - YES _ Other (Please Specify) ______________________ ___64/

50. Do you believe that V.D. in the mother may cause her baby to be stillborn or blind? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 DON'T KNOW - 3 ___65/

51. In your opinion, is a girl most likely to become pregnant, would you say:

1 - During the time of her monthly period
2 - Around the time of ovulation
3 - Just before she has her montly period
4 - Just after she has her monthly period ___66/

52. From this list of birth control methods (HAND RESPONDENT RESPONSE CARD #1), please tell me which three you feel are the most effective:

1 - Birth control pills
2 - Rhythm method
3 - Withdrawal
4 - Diaphragm
5 - Coil (IUD)

52. (Continued)

6 - Foams ___67/
7 - Condoms (rubbers) ___68/
8 - Sterilization ___69/

Now, I have a few general questions concerning you as an unwed father.

53. What was your age at the birth of your first child? ___70/71/

54. Right before your first child was born, how ready did you feel to be a parent? Would you say:

1 - Very ready
2 - Somewhat ready
3 - Somewhat unready
4 - Very unready ___72/

55. Knowing what you know now and looking back, how ready would you say you really were at that time? Would you say:

1 - Very ready
2 - Somewhat ready
3 - Somewhat unready
4 - Very unready ___73/

Now, I would like to aske you some questions concerning the relationship between you and the mother of your first child.

HAND RESPONSE CARD #2	These are the possible answers to the next few questions. After I read each statement, tell me the answer that best describes the relationship between you and her.

56. How would you describe the relationship with the mother of your first child prior to her becoming pregnant? Would you say the relationship was one of:

1 - Love
2 - Friendship
3 - Casual
4 - Hostile ___74/

57. Do you now consider the relationship to be, would you say one of:

1 - Love
2 - Friendship
3 - Casual
4 - Hostile ___75/

58. How do you believe the mother of your first child regarded the relationship between you and her prior to her pregnancy? Would you say one of:

1 - Love
2 - Friendship
3 - Casual
4 - Hostile ___76/

59. Now, how do you believe the mother of your first child considers the relationship to be between you and her? Would you say one of:

1 - Love
2 - Friendship
3 - Casual
4 - Hostile ___77/

60. Do you see serious problems in the current relationship between you and the mother of your first child? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___78/
(If no, skip to question 61)

60a. If yes, ask subject to briefly describe these problems.
Problem list:

1. ____________________
2. ____________________
3. ____________________
4. ____________________
5. ____________________

Now, I am going to ask you some questions concerning your experiences as an unwed father.

61. Did you have sexual intercourse with the mother of your first child with full knowledge of the potential outcome (i.e., pregnancy)? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___79/

62. As an unwed father, are you concerned about your child's future? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___80/
CARD 2

63. Do you feel rejected by your peers? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___01/

64. Do you see anything wrong in having a child out-of-wedlock? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___02/

65. Do you see your experience, as an unwed father, as one that will change your life in a positive fashion? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___03/

Now, I have just a few more questions to ask you and then we will be finished.

66. Do you know if you were born out-of-wedlock?

1 - Out-of-wedlock
2 - Legitimate
3 - In doubt ___04/

67. Do you have any sisters who have had children before they were married, or who became pregnant by a fellow other than their husband? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___05/

68. Do you have any brothers who are unwed fathers? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ___06/

After I read each of the nex four statements, please tell me whether you agree, disagree, or cannot say according to your personal convictions.

69. White doctors generally take good care of their Black patients. Would you say you:

1 - Agree
2 - Disagree
3 - Cannot say ___07/

70. Black leaders "sell out" other Black folks too much. Would you say you:

1 - Agree
2 - Disagree
3 - Cannot say ___08/

71. Black colleges do a good job of educating their students. Would you say you:

1 - Agree
2 - Disagree
3 - Cannot say ___09/

72. White businesses would be banned from the Black community. Would you say you:

1 - Agree
2 - Disagree
3 - Cannot say ___10/

73. From your point of view, if the Margaret Hudson Program offered services services to the unwed father would you be interested in receiving such services? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____11/

7a. If yes, why?

If no, why not?

74. Here is the last question. Is there anything about you that I haven't asked that you think I should know? Anything about your family?

Thank you very much. You've been very helpful.

INTERVIEWER, PAY RESPONDENT FOR INTERVIEW.

CARD 2

Interviewer complete the following after the interview:

How interested was the respondent in the interview?

1 - Very interested
2 - Somewhat interested
3 - Not interested
4 - Interest varied during interview ___12/

During the interview did the respondent:

	1	2	
Appear friendly?	YES	NO	___13/
Seem Nervious?	YES	NO	___14/

Length of interview (minutes) ___15-16/

HOWARD UNIVERSITY
MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

UNMARRIED ADOLESCENT FATHER STUDY

Arts of Living Institute (Chicago, Illinois)

CONFIDENTIAL INTERVIEW

CARD 1

I.D.#______________________________01/02

Date of Today _______ MO __________ DAY 03/06

Introduction

Hello. I'm (your name). I am working with a group who is studying adolescent fathers. We are working with young fathers registered with the Arts of Living Institute. I would like to invite you to help us by participating in this study.

We'd like very much for you to help us by answering some questions about you and your family, about problems you face as a young father and the ways you handle them, and about your sexual knowledge, attitude, and practices. You may at any time refuse to answer a question. It will take about half an hour or so to answer these questions.

All the information you give us will be kept confidential. Your name will not be used to report any of the results.

If you're willing to help us with this study, I'd like you to sign this agreement to answer questions after you have read it.

(SHOW CONSENT FORM)

First of all, I would like to ask you a few general questions about you and your family.

1. What is your date of birth? ____ MO ____ DAY ____ YEAR 07-12/

2. How many brothers and sisters do you have? ____ NUMBER 13-14/

3. When you were growing up did you live with both your father and mother? YES - 1 NO - 2 ____15/

3a. If no, with whom do you live:

1 - Guardian
2 - Relative (please specify) ____________
3 - Other (please specify) ____________ ____16/

4. When you were growing up would you say that most of the time you were closer to your: 1 - Mother 2 - Father 3 - Neither ____17/

5. Which phrase below best characterizes most of your relations with your family when you were growing up. Would you say:

1 - Very Happy
2 - Happy
3 - Somewhat Satisfactory
4 - Somewhat Dissatifactory
5 - Unhappy
6 - Very Unhappy ____18/

6. What type of school are you going to now?

1 - Junior High or Middle School
2 - Senior High School
3 - College
4 - Business or Technical School
5 - Other (What:____________)
6 - Not in school now ____19/

6a. How many years of school have you completed? (Highest grade completed) ____20-21/

6b. In general, how (do or did) you feel about going to school? Would you say, you

1 - Dislike it very much
2 - Dislike it somewhat
3 - Like it somewhat
4 - Like it very much
5 - Don't care one way or the other ____22/

6c. Did your teachers usually put you down? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____23/

6d. Would you say that your teachers did not like you very much?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____24/

7. Are you currently employed?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____25/

8. On the average, how many days a week do you do things with your friends after school or work or in the evenings?

1 - None(Please Go To 9)
2 - One
3 - Two
4 - Three
5 - Four
6 - Five
7 - Six
8 - Seven ____26/

8a. Where do you and your friends usually go?

____

Now, I have a few questions about religion.

9. What is your religious preference? Would you say:

1 - Baptist
2 - Methodist
3 - Catholic
4 - Holiness
5 - Jehovah Witness
6 - Episcopal
7 - Lutheran
8 - Seventh Day Adventist
9 - Islam
10 - Other (Please Specify) ____________________
11 - None ____27/

10. Are you an active member of any church?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____28/

11. Do you attend religious crusades, revival meetings or mission?
Would you say: YES - 1 NO - 2 ____29/

12. Do you attend religious services? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____30/

13. Do you listen to religious services over radio or television?
Would you say: YES - 1 NO - 2 ____31/

14. Do you sometimes pray, either privately or with family?
Would you say: YES - 1 NO - 2 ____32/

15. Do you listen to religious music? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____33/

16. Do ideas you have learned from religion sometimes help you understand your own life? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____34/

17. Do you sometimes contribute money to your church? Would you say: YES - 1 NO - 2 ____35/

18. Do you regularly take part in various activities in your religious organization? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____36/

Those are all the questions I have about religion. Now I would like to ask you some questions about how you feel about your life.

19. Do you feel that what happens to you is your own doing? Would you say: YES - 1 NO - 2 ____37/

20. When you make plans, do you feel that you're almost certain that you can make them work? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____38/

21. Do you feel that you can do very little to change your life?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____39/

22. Do you feel that it is mostly luck if one succeeds or gets ahead YES - 1 NO - 2 ____40/

23. Do you get a lot of fun out of life?
YES YES - 1 NO - 2 ____41/

24. When you were growing up have you ever felt that you would like to move away from home?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____42/

25. If someone insulted you, would you probably forgive him or her?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____43/

26. Do you feel useless at times?
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____44/

Now, I would like to ask you a few questions about problems you have faced as a young father.

27. In your opinion, and from what you have seen yourself, what are some of the problems you have faced as a young father. (INTERVIEWER, GET A LISTING IN THE MINIMUM TIME POSSIBLE WITHOUT RUSHING THE RESPONDENT. AS SOON AS RESPONDENT PROVIDES ENOUGH OF A DESCRIPTION OF A GIVEN PROBLEM FOR YOU TO WRITE IT DOWN SAY: O.K. WHAT OTHER PROBLEMS OR DIFFICULTIES CAN YOU THINK OF?)

Problem list (probe for at least several problems):

1. ______
2. ______
3. ______
4. ______
5. ______

28. If you had a personal problem, who or where would you go to for advice or help? (If a person, have respondent specify his relationship to that person.) ______

______

(If agency, probe respondent for type of agency.) ______

______

29. Which problems do you think are best to take to your family, your friends, or to agencies?

Problem list: FAMILY / FRIENDS / AGENCIES

1. ______
2. ______
3. ______
4. ______
5. ______

30. Who would you go to first with a problem? Would you say:

1 - Family
2 - Friends or
3 - Outsiders (agencies)

____45

31. When you ask someone for help with a personal problem, what types of problems do you discuss with them?

Problem list:

1. ____________________
2. ____________________
3. ____________________
4. ____________________
5. ____________________

Now I would like to ask you some questions about your sexual knowledge, attitudes, and practices.

The following ten (10) statements that I am about to read to you are to be answered "True" or "False."

After I read each statement, tell me if you think the statement is True or False.

32. It's not right to use birth control.

TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ____46/

33. It's O.K. to tell a girl that you love her so that you can have sex with her.

TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ____47/

34. If a guy gets a girl pregnant, its her fault, not his because she should have protected herself.

TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ____48/

35. If I got a girl pregnant, I would want her to have an abortion.

TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ____49/

36 . Birth control is for girls only.

TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ____50/

37 . Getting a girl pregnant proves that you are a man.

TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ____51/

38 . Sex education is nothing but a waste of time.

TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ____52/

39 . A guy should use birth control whenever possible.

TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ____53/

40 . My friends and I talk about the sex that we have.

TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ____54/

41 . If I got a girl pregnant, I would not want her to have an abortion because it's wrong.

TRUE - 1 FALSE - 2 ____55/

Those are all the questions I have that require a True or False answer. Now I'd like to ask you some general questions about your sexual behavior.

42. When you first learned about sex, what was your main source of information? Would you say:

1 - Friends
2 - Books
3 - Mother
4 - Doctor (specialist)
5 - Pamphlets
6 - Teacher
7 - Father
8 - Films
9 - Other (please specify)________________ ____56/

43. How old were you when you first had sexual intercourse with a girl? ____57-58/

44. How did you feel after your first sexual intercourse with a girl? Would you say:

1 - Satisfaction
2 - Happiness or Pride
3 - Guilt
4 - Dissatisfaction
5 - Confusion

___59/

45. When you have sexual intercourse, do you use contraceptives?

YES - 1 NO - 2 ___60/

45a. If yes, Why?______________________________

45b. If no, Why not?______________________________

(If 45b, skip to question 47)

46. What forms of contraceptives have you used? List those given:

1.______________________
2.______________________
3.______________________
4.______________________
5.______________________

Now I have some questions about your knowledge and opinions about sex.

47. Do you feel that it is abnormal for children and teenagers to masturbate? Would you say:

YES - 1 NO - 2 DON'T KNOW - 3 ___61/

48. Do you feel that it is abnormal for teenagers to think a lot about sex? Would you say:

YES - 1 NO - 2 DON'T KNOW - 3 ___62/

49. Do you know what VD (Veneral Disease) is? Would you say:

YES - 1 NO - 2 DON'T KNOW - 3 ___63/

(If no or don't know, skip to question 51.)

49a. If yes, ask respondent what is VD in his opinion.

1 - Yes - Gonorrhea
2 - Yes - Syphilis
3 - Yes - Both Gonorrhea and Syphilis
4 - Yes - Other (Please Specifiy)

___64/

50. Do you believe that VD in the mother may cause her baby to be stillborn or blind? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 DON'T KNOW - 3 ____65/

51. In your opinion, is a girl most likely to become pregnant, would you say:

1 - During the time of her monthly period
2 - Around the time of ovulation
3 - Just before she has her monthly period
4 - Just after she has her monthly period ____66/

52. From this list of birth control methods (HAND RESPONDENT RESPONSE CARD #1), please tell me which three you feel are the most effective:

1 - Birth Control Pills
2 - Rhythm Method
3 - Withdrawal
4 - Diaphragm
5 - Coil (IUD)
6 - Foams ____67/
7 - Condoms (rubbers) ____68/
8 - Sterilization ____69/

Now, I have a few general questions concerning you as an unwed father.

53. What was your age at the birth of your first child? ____70-71/

54. Right before your first child was born, how ready did you feel to be a parent? Would you say:

1 - Very Ready
2 - Somewhat Ready
3 - Somewhat Unready
4 - Very Unready ____72

55. Knowing what you know now and looking back, how ready would you say you really were at that time? Would you say

1 - Very Ready
2 - Somewhat Ready
3 - Somewhat Unready
4 - Very Unready ____73/

Now, I would like to ask you some questions concerning the relationship between you and the mother of your first child.

HAND RESPONSE CARD #2	These are the possible answers to the next few questions. After I read each statement, tell me the answer that best describe the relationship between you and her.

56. How would you describe the relationship with the mother of your first child prior to her becoming pregnant? Would you say the relationship was one of:

1 - Love
2 - Friendship
3 - Casual
4 - Hostile ____74/

57. Do you now consider the relationship to be, would you say one of:

1 - Love
2 - Friendship
3 - Casual
4 - Hostile ____75/

58. How do you believe the mother of your first child regarded the relationship between you and her prior to her pregnancy? Would you say one of:

1 - Love
2 - Friendship
3 - Casual
4 - Hostile ____76/

59. Now, how do you believe the mother of your first child considers the relationship to be between you and her? Would you say one of:

1 - Love
2 - Friendship
3 - Casual
4 - Hostile ____77/

60. Do you see serious problems in the current relationship between you and the mother of your first child? Would you say:

YES - 1 NO - 2 ____78/
(If no, ship to question 61)

60a. If yes, ask subject to briefly describe these problems.

Problem List:

1. ____________________

2. ____________________

3. ____________________

4. ____________________

5. ____________________

Now I am going to ask you some questions concerning your experiences as an unwed father.

61. Did you have sexual intercouse with the mother of your first child with full knowledge of the potential outcome (i.e., pregnancy)? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____79/

62. As an unwed father, are you concerned about your child's future? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____80/

CARD 2

63. Do you feel rejected by your peers? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____01/

64. Do you see anything wrong in having a child out of wedlock? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____02/

65. Do you see your experience, as an unwed father, as one that will change your life in a positive fashion? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____03/

Now, I have just a few more questions to ask you and then we will be finished.

66. Do you know if you were born out of wedlock?

1 - Out of wedlock
2 - Legitimate
3 - In doubt ____04/

67. Do you have any sisters who have had children before they were married, or who became pregnant by a fellow other than their husband? Would you say:
YES - 1 NO - 2 ____05/

68. Do you have any brothers who are unwed fathers? Would you say: YES - 1 NO - 2 ____06/

After I read each of the next four statements, please tell me whether you agree, disagree, or cannot say according to your personal convictions.

69. White doctors generally take good care of their Black patients. Would you say you:

1 - Agree
2 - Disagree
3 - Cannot say ____07/

70. Black leaders "sell out" other Black folks too much. Would you say you:

1 - Agree
2 - Disagree
3 - Cannot say ____08/

71. Black colleges do a good job of educating their students. Would you say you:

1 - Agree
2 - Disagree
3 - Cannot say ____09/

72. White businesses should be banned from the Black community. Would you say you:

1 - Agree
2 - Disagree
3 - Cannot say ____10/

73. From your point of view, how would you rate the Arts of Living Institute for providing services to unwed fathers? Would you say:

1 - Excellent
2 - Good
3 - Average
4 - Below Average
5 - Poor ____11/

73a. Why do you rate it that way?________________________________

____

____

____

74. What types of services would you like to see offered to unwed fathers in addition to the services you are now receiving at the Arts of Living Institute?

____

____

____

____

____

75. Here is the last question. Is there anything about you that I haven't asked that you think I should know? Anything about your family?

____

____

____

____

____

Thank you very much. You've been very helpful.

INTERVIEWER, PAY RESPONDENT FOR INTERVIEW.

Interviewer complete the following after the interview:

How interested was the respondent in the interview?

1 - Very Interested
2 - Somewhat Interested
3 - Not Interested
4 - Interest varied during interview ___12/

During the interview did the respondent:

	1	2	
Appear friendly?	YES	NO	___13/
Seem Nervous?	YES	NO	___14/

Length of interview (minutes) ___15-16/

Add any notes that would aid in the interpretation of this interview.

INTERVIEWER'S SIGNATURE